

Women and human rights

THE WORLD'S torturers, executioners and jailers do not discriminate on grounds of sex. Women are as likely as men to suffer brutal abuses if they question the status quo, defy their governments or insist on their rights. In different countries with differing ideologies women have been killed by the authorities: judicially executed or murdered by government agents.

At least 24 of the 36 people stoned to death in Iran in 1989 were women, sentenced to this particular punishment for offences such as adultery or prostitution. Death by stoning is intended to cause the maximum suffering to the victim.

Nonyanzelo Victoria Mxenge, a prominent human rights lawyer, was shot dead near Durban, South Africa in August 1985 by four men. The attack was one of a pattern of assaults on known critics and opponents of the South African government believed to be carried out by people acting on behalf of the authorities. Victoria Mxenge was representing 16 leading members of the United Democratic Front charged with treason when she was killed.

Women as well as men spend years in prison after being convicted in unfair trials. Carole Richardson spent 15 years in a British prison because she was convicted on the basis of an uncorroborated "confession" made under duress while she was held incommunicado. She was arrested when she was a child of 17. In 1975 she was sentenced to life imprisonment for two bombings. She was released in 1989, when it emerged that she and her three co-defendants, known as the "Guildford Four," had been wrongly convicted because of police malpractice which included lying to the court about the confession statements. At the trial in 1975 the judge stated that they would have received the death penalty if it was still on the statute books.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of women are prisoners of conscience, detained for their peaceful opposition to the authorities, sometimes without having been charged or brought to trial. After a military coup brought the National Salvation Revolution Command Council to power in Sudan in June 1989, a number of women were imprisoned because of their association with the deposed government. Three were prominent members of the Umma Party, one of the major parties in the former government: Sara al Fadi Mahmoud, wife of the former prime minister and party president; Sara Abdullahi Nagdullah, the daughter of a former Secretary General of the Umma party; and Rushida Ibrahim Abdul-Karim, a member of the Umma Party who was the Minister of State for Education before the coup. They were arrested on 5 September, released for two days in October, and re-imprisoned for another month when they refused to sign a statement confessing to opposition to the military government.

When it comes to torture, women also suffer brutal extremes of abuse. Maria Juana Me-

dina was one of 64 trade unionists detained during demonstration in El Salvador on 18 September 1989. She was reportedly severely tortured for three days and then released without charge. She claimed that she had been raped and repeatedly kicked in the abdomen, as a result of which she hemorrhaged. She was hung by her feet over a stairwell and threatened with immersion in an electrified pool and with having her teeth pulled out unless she confessed to being a member of a Salvadorian guerrilla group.

Association with men

Women have been jailed, sexually abused and attacked by the authorities, not because of anything they have done themselves, but in order to bring pressure to bear on male relatives or for information about them.

In Sri Lanka, relatives of people who are either wanted by the security forces, or in their custody, have been arrested and tortured. In March 1988 a 16-year-old girl was detained apparently because two of her brothers had been arrested earlier in the year. She was held for a year without any charges brought against her, and after her release filed a fundamental rights petition alleging that she had been tortured. She described being repeatedly questioned about her brothers' association and beaten with a club when she was unable to provide satisfactory answers. One of her brothers was then brought into the room and tortured with her. "They assaulted me and my brothers alternately about five times. As a result of this assault my hands and fingers were swollen and due to the physical and mental torture I fainted at last".

Double Punishment

Thousands of women have effectively been widowed when their husbands "disappear" after being taken into custody. Women in this position are doubly punished. Not only have they lost their husbands, but as their husbands are not legally dead they cannot claim state or other benefits. Because they become the sole breadwinners, concern for their own and their children's survival may lead such women to decide not to try and find out what happened to their husbands. This was the choice made by the wife of a Guatemalan trade unionist who "disappeared" in 1981. She told Amnesty International (AI) that she had decided not to work openly

for information about her husband so that she could keep her job and support her children, and not risk "disappearing" or being killed herself. "In my case, I really had to think about what I

"crime". A 26-year-old farmer from San Martin de Alao, Lamas province in San Martin department, Peru, she was the mother of three children. Her husband, Juan Pablo Saboya Puerta was taken away by the army on 8 January 1989. A few days later she travelled to Tarapoto, capital of the department, to search for him. She reported his "disappearance" to the human rights commission in Tarapoto and returned home on 16 January. At midnight the following day five soldiers burst into their home, tied up her parents and took Maria Guinaria Pisco away. She was found dead two days later, lying over a tree trunk, with her hands tied behind her back. She was blindfolded and her mouth was full of rags. She had been raped and shot in the forehead.

Some women have been targeted because of their work with women's

groups. In Guatemala, Elsa Castro has received threats against herself and her two young daughters because of her work with her trade union women's group. Elsa Castro works for the Coca Cola bottling plant in Guatemala City and is a member of STECSA, the union which represents Coca Cola workers.

On 17 July 1989 a woman she did not know approached her and told her "soon you will be crying". Two days later, as she was returning from a meeting of the women's group, she was approached by two men who told her they knew where she had just been and that she should look after her two young daughters. Cars with darkened windows had parked outside her house until her husband returned home from work and then flashed their lights before driving off.

In January 1990 several members of women's organisations were detained in Turkey. On 9 January the police raided the rooms of the Associations of Democratic Women (DEKAD) in Ankara and detained DEMKAD's president, Hatice Arkan and several others on suspicion of links with an illegal organisation. The detainees were interrogated under torture for several days and then released. They claim that two of them, a man and a woman, were stripped naked, confronted with each other and then severely tortured to extract confessions.

Special vulnerability

Women suffer the full range of human rights violations practised in the modern world. There are also situations in which they are particularly vulnerable.

Women refugees, according to a Senior Legal Adviser at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, are "especially vulnerable" to "rape, abduction, sexual harassment, physical violence and the not infrequent obligation to grant 'sexual favours' in exchange for

documentations and/or relief goods.

Women in refugee camps, like women in detention, may be subjected to ill-treatment. Women asylum-seekers in Hong Kong have reportedly been subjected to ill-treatment and assault by police officers. Twenty-seven women were among the 100 asylum seekers in Shek Kong Detention Centre who sustained injuries after being kicked and beaten by police officers, during a midnight search of their tents in July 1989. One was a 28-year-old woman in the ninth month of her pregnancy. She told AI that she thought the police officer who attacked her "was about to hit me in the stomach". When she tried to protect herself "he struck my elbow with his baton. He also hit me near the knees".

Pregnant women are specially vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment and in some cases have suffered miscarriages as a result.

A 30-year-old Peruvian peasant woman was detained in September 1987 while travelling by bus through an area where guerrillas had ambushed police. She was accused of being a "terrorist", blindfolded and flown to a detention centre where she was interrogated under torture. Although pregnant, she was reportedly stripped naked, was beaten and had her head repeatedly submerged in water until she almost drowned. She was also raped. She agreed to sign a self-incriminating statement to stop the torture and was then charged with terrorism. She was taken to prison, where her pregnancy ended in a miscarriage. She was later released and the charges against her dropped.

The International Convention on Civil and Political rights explicitly prohibits the execution of pregnant women and no pregnant woman is known to have been judicially executed during the past decade.

However pregnant women have been extrajudicially executed: killed by government agents. Ana Maria del Carmen Perez was in the later stages of pregnancy when she "disappeared" in 1976, one of thousands of victims of the "dirty war" waged by the Argentine military against their opponents. Her body was exhumed in 1989 and her identity established by forensic scientists. Her baby had been killed by two shots through her abdomen. Its tiny bones helped confirm her identity. Ana Maria del Carmen Perez was reported to have "disappeared" in Argentina in 1976. The military was responsible for such "disappearances" and she was granted a presidential pardon in 1989.

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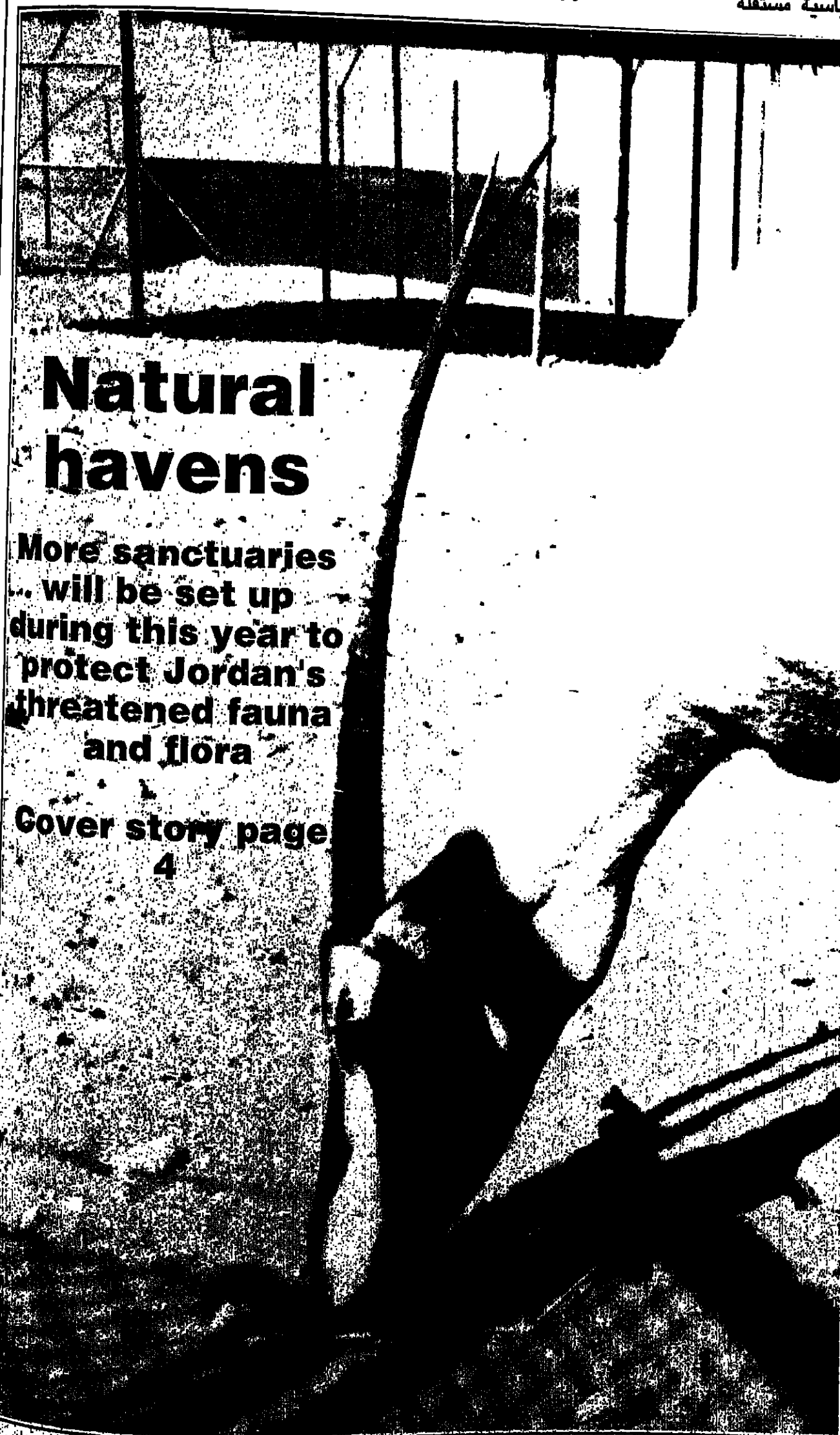
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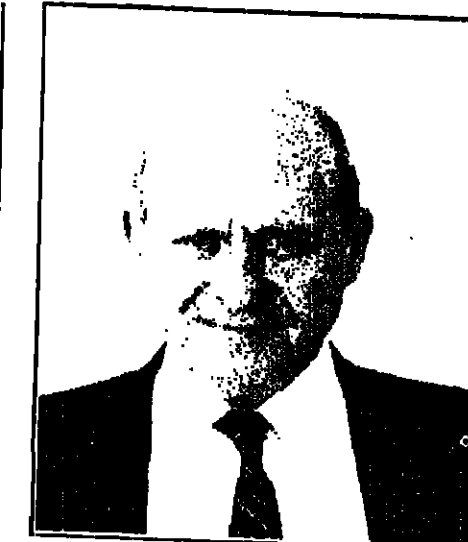
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Natural havens

More sanctuaries will be set up during this year to protect Jordan's threatened fauna and flora

Cover story page 4



Resurrecting Dana, interview with Anis Muasher, page 4



Dealing with poverty, interview with Dr Mohammad Al Squor of Social Development Ministry, page 5



The rise and fall of Carthage, page 7
Buying antiquities, page 6
High hopes for Jordanian singer, page 6

House refers nine corruption cases to court, probe to continue

AMMAN (Star)-The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday reviewed its Finance Committee's report on administrative and financial corruption in the Kingdom, and decided to refer nine cases to the attorney general after a closed session that lasted for eight hours.

The Finance Committee's report divided corruption cases into five categories according to the availability of evidence and documents, and to the stages that its investigations have reached.

Among the cases that would be immediately sent to court are the sale of the country's gold reserves, Abu Nusseir housing

project, the construction of Al-Jafer-Sewaga road, food tenders, Al Jubeha Amusement City, projects of Jordan Valley Authority, and licensing of the importation of food items unfit for human consumption.

The report also referred to cases that

should be sent to foreign courts like the deal of the Airbus planes, the sale of the Boeing aircrafts, insurance of Royal Jor-



Dr. Abdullah Al Akaleh

It also asked for issuing a law that would protect citizens who forward information relevant to the investigation.

danian aircrafts, and the purchases made by the Duty Free Market at Queen Alia International airport.

The Committee asked the government to complete the investigation of these cases, and to finish drafting the proposed economic corruption law.

The Committee said it would present a report on the country's foreign and local debt, which it said amounted to \$ 11.8 billion, once the investigations are finished.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran confirmed that the government has provided all the information asked of it, and that it will issue a law protecting citizens who present information on cases of corruption if need be.

In a statement to Jordan television, the Finance Committee rapporteur, Dr. Abdullah Al Akaleh, said that the House is serious in its efforts to investigate corruption and bring those responsible for it to justice as soon as possible.

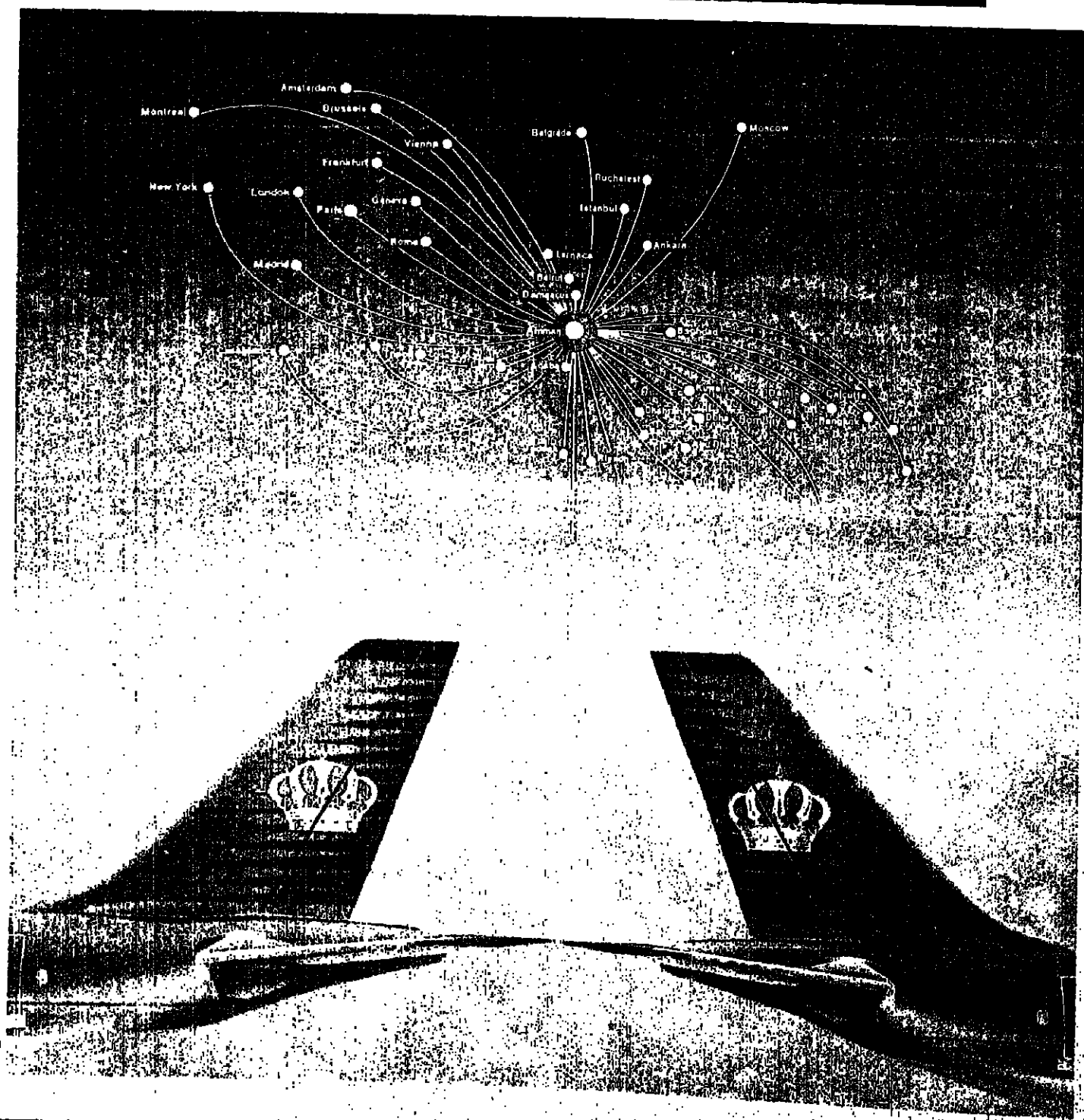
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On the record

● The Housing Corporation is studying the possibility of rescheduling its debts in order to be able to finance its projects from its own revenue of JD 4.5 million and without depending on loans.

● A newly-formed Palestinian committee will meet next month to prepare for the convening of a new session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), in Amman.

● Jordan will participate in the preparatory meetings of the technical co-operation ministers of member states of the Islamic Conference Organization which will be held in Istanbul on Saturday 24 March.

The three-day conference will discuss means of strengthening co-operation among Muslim countries in the fields of planning and development.

● The National Aid Fund Tuesday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Minister of Social Development Mr Abdul Majid Al Shrideh.

● General Director of Arab Potash Co. Mr Ali Ensour left Amman for Singapore Sunday on a working visit.

Focus on Parliament

By Ahmad Al Husban

● A new parliamentary bloc was formed last week. The new grouping, which elected deputy Mohammad Al Alawneh as its speaker, includes deputies Jammal Al-Sarrah, Mahmoud Hweimeh, Mutair Al-Bustany, Munir Al-Bashir, Abdul Salam Freihat, Atef Al-Btoush, and Ziad Abu Mahfouz.

Another group comprising former members of the national bloc is expected to be formed next week.

● Deputy Self-Ad-Murad has set up an office for receiving citizens and listening to their complaints. A similar office was recently opened by the Islamic bloc at the House.

● The Health Committee has recommended issuing health insurance cards for poor citizens.

Poverty threatens the country's social integration

The Star: What is the size of the poverty problem in Jordan?

Dr. Mohammad Al Squor: The size of the problem differs from one part of the country to another, but according to a recent study conducted by the Ministry of Social Development on poverty pockets in the Kingdom, about 19 per cent of the population live under the poverty line. The highest percentage was registered in Al Mafraq Governorate, and the lowest was in the capital Amman, where only 1.5 per cent of the inhabitants live under the poverty line.

There is no doubt, however, that the social integration and the strong family ties that Jordan enjoys limit the effects of the poverty phenomenon and help the people living under poverty line.

Q: What are the measures and criteria followed by the Ministry of Social Development in assessing the size of the poverty problem?

A: The measures followed by the Ministry in assessing the size of the problem centred on calculating the basic food and non-food needs of the ordinary Jordanian family. This was done in accordance with the following internationally agreed upon needs: food, clothing, heating, housing, education and transportation. The minimum required of these needs was then calculated in the Jordanian dinar, taking into consideration the services and aid provided by the government.

Q: The poverty

problem definitely has political, social and economic effects and dimensions. How serious are these effects on the Jordanian society?

A: I believe that the economic, social and political effects of the poverty phenomenon on Jordan are numerous and have various dimensions. Of these I mention the following without elaboration: a- the appearance of class parity and class social conflicts, b- weakening of traditional social values, c- emigration from poor areas, d- increase of social problems and crime rates, e- social and family disintegration.

Q: What are the criteria according to which the Ministry has set the poverty line for basic food needs at JD 40 and for basic food and non food needs at JD 89, and when were these lines

set?

A: As for the poverty line for basic food needs, it is always based on the amount of money re-

quired to ensure the basic food needs necessary for the human body to function at an acceptable level. It was set for the average Jordanian family of 7.2 members at JD 40 according to the prices of the first half of 1988. Taking into account the fact that certain basic needs provided free of charge by the government or re-

Jordanian family of 7.2 members has affected its ability to provide for itself, especially with the price hikes and the devaluation of the dinar. Unemployment has also aggravated the poverty problem as it is mainly spread among college and university graduates who are young people capable of

and families.

Q: What are the other governmental institutions that you co-operate with in confronting poverty?

A: Confronting the poverty problem is a national responsibility for all governmental and private sector institutions. The governmental institutions involved in providing the needy families with aid and services are the ministries of Health, Education, Transport, Energy, Mineral Resources, the Water Authority, the Electricity Authority, the Housing Corporation, the Public Transport Department and Rural and Urban Development Bank.

Voluntary organisations also provide help to the underprivileged groups in the various parts of the Kingdom. Among these organisations are Queen Alia Fund for Voluntary Work, Noor Al Hussein Foundation and other foreign and local welfare societies.

In addition to providing financial help to the poor families, these organisations and societies carry out social development and training programmes. They operate in all parts of the country and the services they offer complement those provided by the public sector.

Q: You participated in conducting a comprehensive study on poverty in Jordan, in light of the



Poverty-stricken area in Amman: Big challenge for social development workers

findings of this study, do you think the problem could be absorbed in the future?

A: I believe the problem could be overcome if we implement the proposed solution within a comprehensive framework that aims at: a - reducing the number of unemployed Jordanians, especially those with university degrees and who come from poor families, and carrying out the recommendations of the ministerial committee on unemployment and other conferences that addressed the issue, b- controlling the labour market and replacing foreign workers with Jordanians, c- encouraging and facilitating the export of Jordanian workers, and d- giving priority in work to male citizens.

There are also other procedures that could have positive impact on the poverty problem, like reducing the prices of food items by subsidising them, reducing the current government expenditure, encouraging investment, and providing more support for poor families.

Q: Do you think that the Ministry's budget of JD 3 million is enough for it to cover all its responsibilities?

A: The budget is much less than the minimum required by the Ministry. Our responsibilities include the family and child care, social defence, social development, the handicapped and women, which require huge expenses. The Ministry requires a much bigger budget. The average share of the individual receiving aid from the ministry is JD 1 annually while it is JD 25 for the individual share in the health services and JD 35 in the educational services.

The share of the individual in the social development services is extremely low in comparison with other developing countries, and even in comparison with other sectors in the country.

Q: What stage have you reached in negotiations with the World Bank for setting up a national institution what would co-ordinate the efforts of all organisations dealing with the poverty problem, and when will this new body become operational?

A: The negotiations with the World Bank are progressing as planned. The low income families will benefit greatly from the reform programme that will be adopted, and will lead to the establishment of a national Aid and Work fund.

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Nature conservation in Jordan

Ambitious plans to revive Dana, create natural park in Wadi Rum and release rare deer in Ajloun

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN - The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) will soon embark on an ambitious and unique project mainly aiming at involving the previous residents of the desert town of Dana (approximately 200 kilometres south of Amman) in the revitalisation of their village as part of a master plan to establish the Dana Nature Reserve. This year, the Society will also work to re-introduce the rare Roe deer and the threatened Persian Fallow deer into Zubiya Nature reserve in Ajloun. Plans are also underway to create a national park in Wadi Rum as part of the eastern desert's natural reserve bordering Jordan's frontiers with Saudi Arabia.

President of the Society Mr Anis Muasher told the Star that RSCN is working closely with Saudi Arabia's National Commission for the Protection and Propagation of Natural Life to formulate a pan-Arab strategy to protect natural resources. He said he hoped that a meeting will take place soon in Saudi Arabia or Jordan to put the foundations of such co-operation which will aim at creating joint reserves along the Jordanian-Saudi borders, publishing a unified list of species protection that will extend beyond national borders and unifying dates of hunting seasons, in addition to exchange of information.

Dana comes to life

The Dana reserve in the south is another important project, which Mr Muasher would like to see take off soon this year. "We are trying to link the creation of natural reserves with economic development in the areas where such reserves will be built," he said.

Dana is located in one of the most beautiful areas in the mountains of south Jordan. According to a paper published by the RSCN, the proposed reserve will stretch from the high reaches of the Sharara mountains at an elevation of 1300 metres above sea level in the east, through breathtaking canyons and gorges of steep rock and down to the stunning dunes and hills of Wadi Arabia at an elevation of only 200 metres in the west.

Currently, the Society sees a number of problems facing the Dana reserve among which are the depletion of the green cover in the area because of overgrazing by goats, and felling the trees for use as firewood, the hunting of mammals and birds indigenous to the region especially the ibex Mountain Gazelle; the depletion of small streams as watering holes have recently dried up due to drought, thus depriving wildlife from these crucial watering points; and finally the desertion of the old village of Dana. Unemployment and poverty has hit the former residents forcing most of them to migrate. Many of them reside in the new cement-built town of Qadisiya.

The Society's goals, according to Mr Muasher, are protectionist,

namely to restore the balance to the area's ecosystem and make sure that the flora and fauna of the area begin to regain their original constitution.

The Society has also focused its attention to tap the area's tourism potential.

The natural beauty of Dana makes it "a natural stopping point for visitors to Jordan," according to a paper on Dana published by RSCN.

But while it will encourage tourism to the reserve, the Society will work out plans to "harmonise tourism in the area with a sound environmental protection scheme."

To protect the reserve the Society will resort to fencing "vulnerable

parts of the border", building observation points for wardens, and organising horseback patrols. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture is backing protection efforts through an intensive forestation programme that is implemented through German funding.

To facilitate tourism, the Society will be setting up a campsite for campers, equipped with necessary sanitary facilities. It will also build hiking trails so that visitors will have access to high-lights of the reserves "without harming the green cover." Shelters will also be built at vantage points of exceptional natural beauty.

In addition to protecting nature and luring tourists, the Society will carry out an ambitious breeding programme by establishing a breeding centre at the proposed reserve for ibex and Mountain Gazelle. Water points will be set up in order to compensate for the streams that have been over used in the area, which is famous for its 2000-year-old *batum* and cypress trees.

Less than 20 out of 120 houses are left intact in the old village of Dana, according to Mr Muasher. With government assistance, the Society hopes, to attract many of the villagers to return and rebuild their houses. A number of them will be trained on traditional handicrafts at Salt's Traditional Handicrafts Centre. This will be done through the assistance of the Italian government and Noor Al Hussein Foundation. The aim of this programme is to create job opportunities for the residents, who will depend on regular flow of tourists into the natural reserve. Also a lodge will be built and invitations will go to local Jordanian artists to visit the reserve and reside there for some time and paint.

Residents will also be given help to start their own small in-

dustries. Some will be helped to raise honey bees, while others will be encouraged to farm. Commercial activities related to tourism will appear since there will be a need for cafeteria's, livery stables and others.

Wadi Rum project, such as the Aqaba Regional Authority and the Ministry of Tourism, in their efforts to get the necessary funding from international organisations. Mr Muasher said that the study will look into "re-

organising the small village of Rum, re-zoning the populated areas and creating job opportunities for the locals."

The Society also aims at releasing a herd of Oryx, currently protected in Shomari near Azraq, in the Rum area. The area is famous for its Ibex, Mountain Gazelle and Bustard. The Society will pave tracks built of limestone leading to sites of archaeological importance especially to the

8000-year-old drawings. Mr Muasher hopes that the study will be completed in May or June and that work can begin in Rum before the end of this year.

Azraq is lost

The fate of Azraq Wetland Reserve does not look promising according to the Society. Water is still being pumped at high rates from its aquifers, while overground lakes (usually filled during winter months from seepage and rainfall) have almost dried up. "The situation is sad

A study for Rum's national park

Wadi Rum is another region of Jordan which the Society has its eyes on for 1990. The Rum National Park will occupy a large area of the Wadi and the Society hopes to apply the same concept of having tourism and the protection of nature co-existing for the support of this beautiful desert.

Three experts from the world Wildlife Fund (WWF) will visit Jordan in April to study three main aspects of Rum, namely, urbanisation, tourism and nature protection. The three experts will put forward a study on the creation of the national park. At the same time, a committee representing governmental and semi-governmental parties involved in the Wadi Rum region has been formed by the Prime Minister to work closely with WWF in preparing under the chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Noor and has invited a local representative from the region to help it in taking final decisions.

The study will help the Society and other parties involved in the

gratory birds, Azraq (90 kilometres east of Amman) is drying up. The Society has had to prohibit hunting water fowl for years, but still the number of birds visiting Azraq has dropped considerably.

Things, however, are not that bad in nearby Shomari Reserve, 20 kilometres southeast of Azraq, where Jordan's successful oryx breeding programme is taking place. The programme last year suffered a set-back which cost the Society 13 heads but the critical situation was later controlled when international experts, called in to look into the matter, discovered that green cover in the reserve has become salinated and scarce, and the necessary vaccines were imported thus, saving the 100-strong herd. As a result of this, the Society has decided to expand the Shomari reserve and move part of the herd to a new reserve in Wadi Rum by the end of this year.

Also the ostrich hatching programme at Shomari was declared a success after six eggs of ostriches hatched last year, and another six heads were received as a gift from Saudi Arabia. London Zoo sent three heads of wild Syrian ass while the San Diego Zoo in the United States sent a gift of 20 heads of ibex, which were released in Al Mujib Reserve in South Jordan.

The success of the oryx breeding programme in Shomari was the impetus behind a decision by world experts on oryx meeting in Oman last year to make Shomari an international centre for propagating, distributing and protecting thoroughbreds. The cost of the first phase of the project is estimated at \$1 million, to be provided by international organisations.

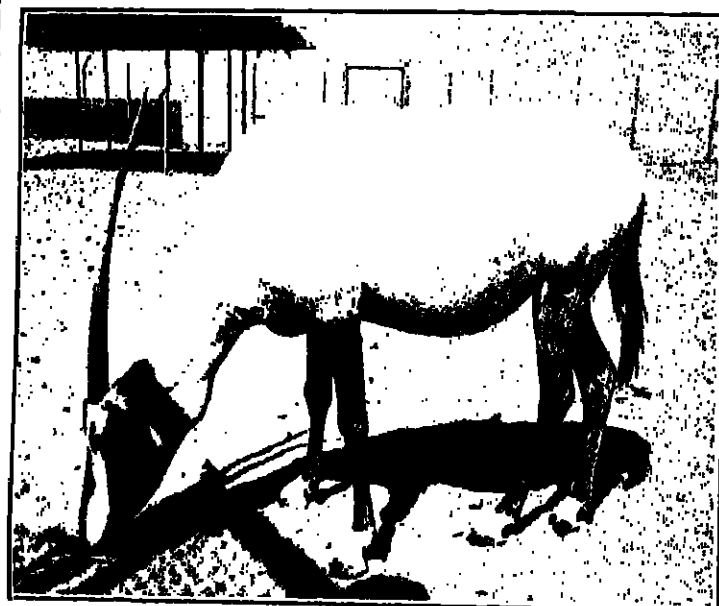
Other reserves

The Society runs six nature reserves and hopes to create 12 additional ones over the coming years. This year the Society hopes to re-introduce Roe deer in Zubiya Nature Reserve, and plans to release three males and two females into the mountainous reserve after fencing the area. The Society expects to receive a herd of Persian Fallow deer also to be released in Zubiya.

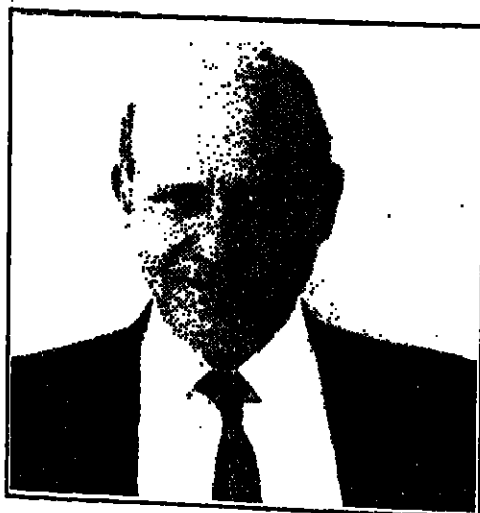
Work is also going on in Tawaneh Reserve, which is dedicated to breeding partridge, in order to release pressure on wild birds popular among Jordanian hunters.

In addition to running reserves, the Society, which is open to members and nature lovers, organises hunting seasons in Jordan by issuing licences and lists of animals and birds allowed to be hunted during different periods. Last year, it reported 145 hunting violations and issued 1639 hunting licences. In addition, the Society is active in Jordan's re-forestation programme, anti-pollution drive and student's environmental awareness campaign.

22 MARCH 1990



Oryx in Shomari: Jordan will become an international centre for breeding this rare animal



Anis Muasher: "We are losing Azraq"

Queen Alia Heart Institute: Beyond the controversy

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to The Star

SINCE ITS creation in 1982, the Queen Alia Heart Institute (QAHI) has established itself as a major heart centre both locally and regionally. Its diagnostic and treatment facilities attract an increasing number of referrals at home and from other Arab countries. Currently QAHI handles 1000 operations yearly, 700 of which are open heart procedures, and has, according to Dr Daoud Hanania, head of cardiac surgery at QAHI and former director of the Royal Medical Services (RMS), since its opening performed "thousands of catheterisations and tens of thousands of investigations." Its controversial heart transplant programme, which started in 1985, not only put Jordan on the transplant map but was responsible for bringing the centre to regional prominence.

Despite its obvious success as a medical facility, the Heart Institute has recently come under attack by certain members of parliament, concerned that tertiary health care has overdeveloped at the expense of much needed primary health care in the country. According to Dr Hanania, the expansion and furnishing of the King Hussein Medical Centre (KHMC) grew out of ne-

cessity and never constituted a drain on the general health budget as QAHI, being part of the Royal Medical Services, was until recently financed by the defence budget with some revenue coming from two health insurance schemes.

Dr Hanania explained that in the 1970s the development of cardiac surgery at the King Hussein Medical Centre, far from being a luxury was a natural progression from the work being carried out there. Thoracic surgery had already begun and the development of open heart surgery worldwide was soon to have a major impact on tertiary care.

His Majesty King Hussein, cognate of advances in medical science, has been the patron of the cardiac programme and in consequence a cardiac team of surgeon, cardiologist, anaesthetist and pump technician was sent to Houston Texas for training under eminent heart surgeon Dr M DeBakey. As a direct result of the ambitious KHMC training programmes, three to four thousand adult patients underwent cardiac surgery between 1973 and 1982.

The incidence of Heart Disease in Jordan and the Arab World is considered high (although no comparable statistics are available). The reason for



Dr Hanania

this is multifactorial explains Dr Hanania. The tradition and continuance of intermarriage in the Arab World could possibly contribute to the high incidence of congenital heart disease while an inadequate primary health care in past years that did not bring rheumatic fever under control contributes to valvular disorders. Coronary problems are incurred by many factors, as in the Western World of poor diet, heavy smoking uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes, obesity and stress.

Dr Hanania believes that the increased load in the early eighties justified the extension of the cardiac unit and in 1982, Sultan

Qaboos, familiar with the cardiac programme, completely financed the building of the Queen Alia Heart Institute (at a cost of JD 20 million) and its first year running costs.

Designed by prize winning American hospital architects, the almost free standing Institute sports 100 bed capacity, two catheterisation labs, four operating theatres and the full complement of non invasive investigative equipment (ultrasound, echocardiograms, treadmills etc.) which Dr Hanania says are comparable with any modern heart institute in the world.

The Institute was built with the Greater Arab world in mind, hoping that its sophisticated facilities would enable it to become a referral centre for the region. Although other countries in the area now have their own heart institutes, the QAHI still attracts patients from the Gulf, Egypt, Iraq, North Africa, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and the occupied West Bank and such operations makes up 20 per cent of the Institute's yearly intake, earning 2.2 million dinars annually for the National Medical Institute (NMI) to which the RMS is now seconded.

Its earning power aside, Dr Hanania believes the Institute has saved Jordan and Jordanians

thousands of dinars. Jordanians seeking open heart surgery abroad would have to pay \$10,000 - 15,000, whereas similar treatment at the Institute costs around 1200 to 3000 dinars.

Access to this excellent facility is also not confined to one socio economic strata alone. The unique nature of the Royal Medical Services provides secondary and tertiary health care to one third of the nation, some of whom are the poorest, at little or no cost to the patient. It cannot be denied that those who have benefited most from the so called "luxury" facilities and programmes of the KHMC are those who can least afford it.

Although the same institute runs a kidney transplant programme, only the value of the highly publicised heart transplants have been questioned. Dr Hanania defends the heart transplant programme as "no longer being experimental but a recognised modality for the treatment of certain conditions of terminal heart disease." Of the 10 patients who have received heart transplants in Jordan, six are still living, while many others are awaiting donors. Defending its expense, Dr Hanania says that in the long run, transplant is cheaper than the cost of intensive care required without it.



Mr Abu Hassan delivering his speech in the opening session

Aviation Safety Conference ends today

AMMAN (Star) - The First Regional Aviation Safety Conference (RASC) concludes its meeting here today, Thursday. The three-day conference which discussed aircraft engineering, personnel training, and modern safety programmes among other issues related to aviation safety.

Addressing the opening session of the conference on Tuesday, His Majesty King Hussein said that change and expansion in aviation industry are occurring at a fast pace and "we must all ensure that these developments guarantee aviation safety first and foremost."

22 MARCH 1990

saying that "safety is our common cause and therefore our efforts during the conference will be directed towards this end."

Mr Abu Hassan thanked the Flight Safety Foundation (FSF) for its full support and participation that have made the "excellent level of professionalism" achieved by the conference possible. He said that, at RJ, "safety is deeply ingrained in our corporate culture."

"We at Royal Jordanian rigorously believe that safety is an investment and a highly cost effective approach in assuring the viability of our mission," RJ President and Chief Executive Mr Hussam Abu Ghazaleh told the conference on Tuesday.

He said that the goal of the conference, which was organised by RJ Aviation Safety Office in co-operation with FSF was to "meaningfully contribute for implementing further safety improvement in our mission."

Around 54 participants, representing major world aircraft manufacturers, airline operators and regulatory agencies attended the conference.

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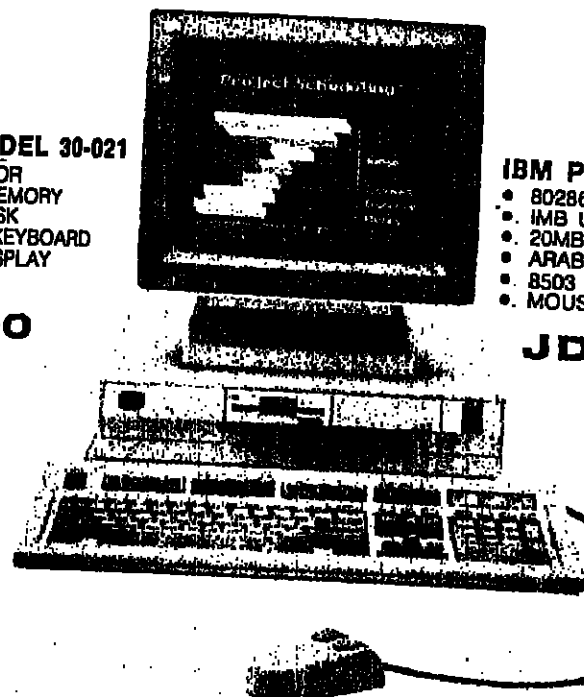
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Beauty contest for Arabian horses

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to The Star

THE ROYAL Jordanian State Stud will today, Thursday, be the venue for the first Arabian Horse Championship Show ever to be held in Jordan. Unlike the last Arabian horse show held at the Stud in September 1988, which was a display of horses brought in from all over the Arab world, this show will give an opportunity for the owners of Arabian horses to pit the beauty of their animals against that of their fellow breeders.

More than 150 horses from Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Jordan will be competing against each other in classes for the best senior male, the best junior male, the best female and the best female with foal at foot. In all, there will be 15 classes enabling horses of all ages to compete. The show, which has an early start at 8:45 am, will begin with young horses while more senior animals, those of 10 years and over will compete later in the day. The judges of the classes are from the United Kingdom,

Spain and Morocco.

The show is being held in affiliation with the European Commission for Arabian Horse Organisers (ECAHO). The ECAHO rules for conduct of shows will be applied, meaning that those horses placed in the first three positions will be entitled to participate in major European and International shows, like for example the World Championship in Paris.

This is especially gratifying to the competitors as until now breeders of Arabian horse in the Arab world had to qualify at European shows before they were allowed to go on to compete in the more important international events.

Depending on the weather, the show will be held either outdoors or in and will continue all day with a break for lunch. Refreshments will be available on the showground.

As a result of the increase in the number of horses bred at the State Stud this year, a number of young horses, particularly colts will be for sale.

Chances of success loom high for Jordanian singer

By Frida Jeryes
Special to The Star



Suhair Odeh

SHE BURST onto the scene without any prior introductions and achieved an immediate success. A Jordanian voice first discovered by "Al-Nagham Al-Arabi" group in 1986, Suhair Odeh is believed by many to have won the Jordanian song a huge untapped audience that did not exist before.

When she sings, her face is rendered into a tempest of emotional reverberations and her dark eyes tell a myriad tales and when she talks, she is full of natural charm, vigour and warmth.

Last year she joined the Jordanian group "Mirage" and enriched the group's recordings with three Arabic releases "Zououni", "Sarkha" and "Tigoul Ahwak", a brilliant production executed with all the beauty and feeling possible to make it a hit.

Today her songs are played on radios and television screens in many Arab countries, raising Suhair to stardom, not only on the local scene but also Arab-wide.

"I have learnt the 'a' 'b' 'c' of singing from Al Nagham Al-Arabi". With them, she sings Muwashahat "which is my passion," says Suhair, who attends the troupe's rehearsals twice a week for two hours. "And I will continue with the troupe as long as it exists," confirms Suhair.

"I have also learnt a great deal from my husband, who always tries to give me of his knowledge and experience," she adds, paying full tribute to the man who helped her achieve the fame she now enjoys. Mustafa Sha'sha, violinist, singer, composer and teacher of music.

Suhair and Mustafa have one daughter (Nagham) aged three and half years, and one son, (Awj), aged 14 months. When asked about her priorities of the home and the career, Suhair says, "of course my husband and children come first."

Suhair, who is also an actress, has just finished filming a Beirut series for Jordan Television. The date of broadcast has not been set yet, she says. There is no singing in this series, but she welcomes any offer that would involve both her talents, singing and acting.

She started her acting career in 1987 when she took part in a theater production called "Time for Fantasia" which was performed during the Theater Festival of Tunisia and which won a prize for best technical work.

Mustafa has a diploma in Music from Cairo, and a bachelor degree also in music from Kuwait. He is currently working on his Masters degree at George Mayson University in the United States. He teaches music education at Al Manhal institute, gives violin lessons at the National Music Conservatory and is a member in the Administrative Committee of the Musicians Society. He also writes music for local and Arab productions and sings for Jordan Television.

est to me and he best understands my vocal abilities. I performed it with all my feelings."

Listening with them to the song played on the stereo at their home, one feels that these two have a great potential as a team. But as they speak of their future plans, each is careful to keep his and her own individual identity, and to maintain a fine distance between their respective interests.

The couple have plans for future combined productions. "The next will be a surprise" says Mustafa, but at the same time they both keep their options open for separate involvements, which they both feel are right for their careers.

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Suhair says that of the songs she has so far performed, "Magdar Agullak" is the one she liked most. "Mustafa is the closest

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to me and he best understands my vocal abilities. I performed it with all my feelings."

The rise and fall of illustrious Carthage

The UNESCO programme for the preservation of Carthage, which commenced in the early 1970s, has resulted in excavation of that ancient Tunisian city and its surrounding areas by Tunisian and international teams - and a wealth of finds.

By Maggie James
Special to The Star



Above: Berber women of Tunisia in traditional clothes

Right: A Tunisian lady walks the ancient steps at the capitolium, Dongga

LONDON - The historic city known as Carthage - sited on what is now a suburb of Tunis, the capital of Tunisia - is thought to have been founded in the eighth or ninth century BC, but traditionally in 1186 BC, by the ancient Mediterranean civilisation known as the Phoenicians.

Recent archaeological investigation by French, American, British, German, Canadian, Italian, Danish, Swedish, Dutch and Tunisian experts - organised in an effort to preserve Carthage and its environs under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) - have revealed the fascinating creative legacy of the Phoenician and Roman inhabitants of the area.

"Carthage: A Mosaic of Ancient Tunisia," edited by Aicha Ben Abed Ben Khader and David Soren and published by W.W. Norton, is based on an exhibition of the same name presented by the American Museum of Natural History in New York in collaboration with the Bardo and Carthage Museums in Tunis and the Archaeological Museums of El Jem, Sousse, Sfax and Nabeul. Representing contributions from these museums and many hours of archaeological work, the exhibition contained the largest collection of Tunisian objects ever shown in the United States.

According to the Director of the American Museum of Natural History, Thomas D. Nicholson, the goal of the exhibit was to present an accurate panorama of varied and splendid artistic achievements of Carthage against a backdrop of the events of the times and the struggles that surged across that part of the African landscape. It pays particular attention to the influence of the Berbers, the Punic people (Phoenician settlers), and the Romans.

In his introduction, American David Soren asserts: "The list of Carthaginian contributions is long. The Carthaginians developed sophisticated agricultural techniques that were passed on to western civilisation and that made Tunisia the breadbasket of the Roman Empire. They built magnificent ships that led to the creation of the Roman navy. Carthage's location at the tip of Tunisia made the city an international centre for education and commerce. They invented true mosaics - a revelation of recent times. They were respected and bold explorers, perhaps reaching England and Ireland. They produced military geniuses, some

far superior to Roman military leaders."

Soren explains that the importance of Carthage in antiquity was due to its strategic location close to Sicily and Italy and near the mouth of the Medjerda river (then the Bagradas). The river runs through a very fertile valley - the nourishing spine of Tunisia.

The three principal resources of the Carthaginian economy were commerce, agriculture and crafts. Artisans were numerous, including potters, jewellers, wood and metal workers, masons and glassmakers.

M'Hamed Hassine Fantar, director of research at the National

Institute of Archaeology and Art (INAA) in Tunisia, describes how the founding of Carthage brought new resurgence of economic, political and cultural activity to North Africa. "Carthage became the capital of a vast empire that covered almost all of present Tunisia, Tripoli (which included the emporia of Sabrata and Leptis), and other important North African cities like Lixus in Morocco. Tipasa and Hippo in Algeria also seem to have belonged to the Carthaginian empire. Outside of Africa, Carthage dominated a part of western Sicily, Sardinia, the Balearics, Malta and the southern regions of

Spain," he says.

But the spectacular rise of Carthage was to end in a spectacular fall. Hedi Slim of the INAA explains how the three Punic Wars, from 246 to 146 BC, involved the two superpowers of antiquity - Carthage and Rome - in a conflict that spread across the entire Mediterranean world. "They were truly the world wars of the third to second centuries BC," she asserts. As a result Carthage was destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC.

Although the city, like the legendary phoenix, was to rise from the ashes, and become a shining example of Romanisation, under

its Roman masters the major role of Carthage and the region was eclipsed. It became just a part of the Roman Empire.

Artefacts from Carthage and surrounding areas on display at the American Museum of Natural History included amulets, lamps, pendants, steles, urns, vases, boxes, jewellery, coins and mosaics - of which Tunisia has the world's richest collection. Influenced by Berber, Punic, Hellenistic, Roman, Vandal and Byzantine civilisations, ancient Tunisia was a mosaic of peoples, too.

Buying antiquities

With every looted object, a bit of history is lost

By Dr Khairleh Amr
Special to The Star

A FEW months ago an acquaintance phoned, asking if he could bring around a few things to show me. Half an hour later he appeared with a few plaster plaques and small statues smudged with mud, asking about their date. I explained the technique of plaster casting (an easy cheap technique that is currently used; in some cases the plaster is actually mixed with crushed stone and the statues set on stone bases to achieve the weight and feel of stone). In disbelief, he said he had paid 4,000 dinars for the 'antiquities', and even worse, a customer was due in one hour to view them.

I think my friend learned his lesson, at any rate, he could not afford to spend any more money on modern plaster. As for the customer, I am sure he spent his money somewhere else, hopefully on fakes but maybe on real antiquities looted from an archaeological site.

I am not writing this article to discuss the Antiquities Law or

the cases of states going to court over their stolen ancient treasures sold on the international market. My aim is to tell you what damage an antiquity in someone's sitting room or garden does.

It has been said that "archaeology is destruction". This saying came from the fact that when a layer of earth gets deposited during a time period, it preserves within it evidence of human activity during that period. Once that layer is removed, the evidence it retained for many years is lost forever. By careful methodical digging, archaeologists can see that evidence and record it. Looters whose only aim is the recovery of sellable antiquities do not record anything. With every looted object, a bit of history is lost beyond recovery.

An antiquity, of known provenance coming from a well-recorded earth deposit, could say much about its makers and users, about their way of life, their religious beliefs, their trade connections, their aesthetics and art; it could draw part of the picture of life during that time and it is our material connection with his-

tory. On the other hand, a looted antiquity is reduced to a mute object.

The desire for beautiful and rare objects has been with humans since time immemorial. Many antiquities are truly beautiful works of art, although most are regarded as beautiful merely because they are old. There is a sense of excitement about things that were made thousands or even hundreds of years ago. An antiquity in a museum is pleasure and education to the public, and inspiration to the artists. An antiquity in a private home is merely a showpiece to visitors.

I talked to a prominent businessman some time ago, who said he is angry at the fact that many antiquities are leaving the country. Jordan is losing some of its treasures with no hope of recovery. As an answer to this sad truth he is encouraging his rich friends to buy antiquities and keep them in the country. The result of this attitude is the creation of a new market where looters have to satisfy both export and local demands. More archaeological sites are being destroyed. More history is being

lost. The motives are true and honest but the solution is short-sighted.

Here it should be stressed that the problem is worldwide and not confined to Jordan. Even the rich developed nations are suffering greatly from the harm done to their history by the trade in antiquities. To add to the destruction, ancient treasure hunting is now utilizing modern technology with devastating effects. This does not refer to metal detectors that do not usually go beyond finding rusty nails and cans, but to the use of bulldozers and cranes. The trade has progressed from dealing mainly with coins and pots to architectural elements. Door frames, columns and even mosaic floors are on the market. Accordingly, many ancient monument that could have been cultural landmarks as well as tourist attractions are ruined.

It is an impossible task for any state to keep guard over all its archaeological sites. The only answer would be to restrict the market. People who collect antiquities are usually people who appreciate art and culture, and

are sensitive to conservation. It is mainly through their realising the harm this market does that looting will stop.

Going back to my acquaintance and his fakes, I recall the story of a small pillar, made in November-December 1981. It took one month to carve, and I was shown each stage with great pride. After carving, the pillar was buried in the ground and watered for one year. Great effort and skill went into the making. A talented young man among many in his area in which there are no recognised crafts or local art at the time being, the maker also does statue heads and figurines. If he had presented people with his modern creations as products of his culture as it now stands instead of his fakes, as products of his ancestors, could he make a living? Should we not focus on the revival of crafts, creating steady jobs and a feeling of pride in our present products and culture as well as those of our ancestors, instead of going through life as people with no capabilities living off the glories of the past?

The writer is a professional archaeologist.

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Yemen - The last bastion of good taste in building?

The traditional architecture of Yemen has been the lifetime mission of a French couple, Maria and Pascal Marechaux, who have been exhibiting their photographs of buildings long since demolished or altered.

By Sajid Rizvi
special to The Star

LONDON - Can the mainly rural setting of Yemen be the last stronghold of architects with their hearts and minds in the right place? The harmony achieved between the building practices and the natural surroundings of that country have been the subject of a lifetime's work by a young French couple, Maria and Pascal Marechaux.

The French architect photographers are exhibiting their photographs of buildings long since demolished or precariously surviving amidst the march of modernisation in Yemen at the Zama Gallery in London. But it is in their ideas about the contrasts between their home, Europe, the modern world in general and the tranquil and remote society of Yemen that the true worth of their work becomes apparent.

"Architecture is a witness of social links between people," Pascal Marechaux said during a conversation. "Traditional housing in Yemen was a very important link between neighbours, where they lived closely with no space between houses. Now, everybody wants a plot of land and put in the middle a small house."

"Each family seems to want their own enclosure, and their own privacy. In the old city, for example, if you bought a bicycle for your son, it would be for all the children of the street! This is of course less and less in evidence."

Pascal, a bespectacled soft-spoken man with a reputation for aesthetic detail, and his wife Maria have been involved with the study of Yemen for nearly 15 years. Their photographic record already has resulted in a book, entitled "Arabian Moons", and the London show is a culmination of the work recorded in the book or carried out afterward.

It all started when, as 20-year-olds in Paris, the couple decided they wanted to discover tradi-



Maria and Pascal Marechaux in London

tional architecture outside the context of Europe. They applied for and won a scholarship as part of which they received a car. Nearly five months of travel in the Middle East followed; Yemen came later as the culmination of that trip.

"Yemeni architecture is the most interesting and perhaps indeed the best in the world," said Pascal. "As students of art, we felt that the courses (in France) were a little bit too historical. It seemed important to seek a synthesis and perhaps discover real architecture."

As young Parisians, they had seen pictures of the Yemeni tower houses and the mud houses. "We were struck by their quality, the harmony they reflected between man and the environment," Maria, who is also an architect, was particularly struck by the interiors, the people and in particular the women. When she arrived in Yemen with her husband and began research, she discovered that "as a woman I could go into the houses more freely than Pascal could."

This opened up whole new vistas of discovery for her and a whole new range of friendships. As young researchers ready to rough it out, said Pascal, "we just wanted to witness the whole process of living."

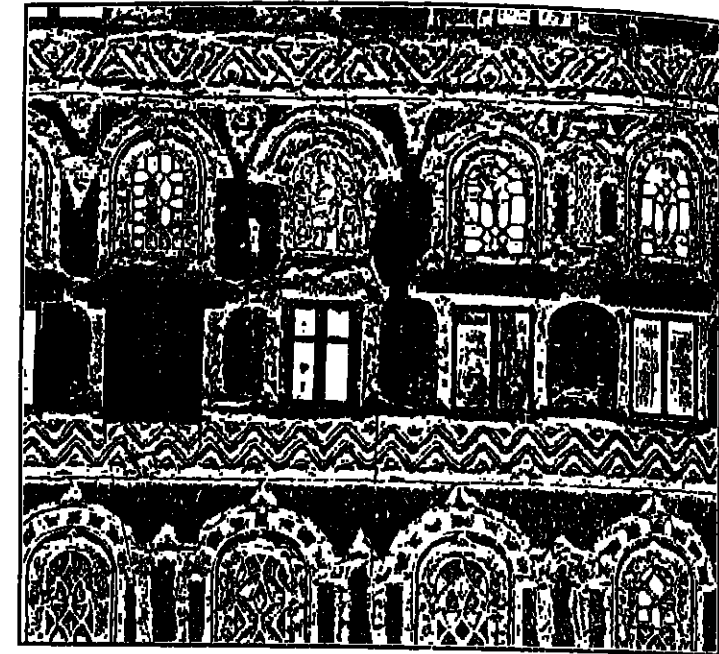
"As a couple we have been travelling a long time and we have tried to adapt - learning Arabic and sharing a way of life.

The lessons from the architecture which we came across were very inspiring; the traditional architecture of Yemen, for example, appeared to us as the greater body, or the greater clothes. Contrast that with an empty shell, where man makes room as he finds it, and you get the picture."

He said they found, for example, that the patterns of the decoration on a window often matched with the patterns of the elevation of houses, clothes or the make-up worn by a lady. "All that showed a relationship between people and their environment. You could see, for example, that when a lady put on her veil she was actually carrying a part of the decoration of her home with her."

The couple believe that modern architecture in the West, the subject of attacks by such prominent campaigners as Prince Charles, Britain's future king, presents a major problem.

In modern building, he said, "the process of building is shared between maybe 10 more different people. You have people who are the experts in the law of urban design and planning, the people who deal in money matters, the architect and the draughtsman, the contractors and the sub-contractors, sometimes a chief and often people who come from another culture abroad. Only after that come the people who eventually will live in the



Facade of a building in Sanaa, source: Arabian Moons

building or be responsible for maintaining it."

In Yemen, they found that the process of building and living usually involved only one or two people. "In most cases, it is the owner who will also have done the design, even if it's not on paper, and built the house, or a mason or builder answerable to the head of the family who will be living in the house."

"In western societies, although the process is shared between so many people, there is usually little meaningful communication," he said. "The people involved have different or conflicting values, from the builders to those who come to inhabit the place. Money is the guiding rule."

In recent years of development in Yemen, however, the couple had witnessed "a lot of destruction" of the traditional architecture. "Many of the photographs which we have taken are now mere records, memories, because everything is changing so fast. Builders are freely using concrete."

Social pressure for modern living had also led to the neglect or destruction of traditional architecture. As Maria said, "a way of life is changing. The huge houses are the victims of this social change. The sons or their wives don't want to live in them. They want smaller, newer

houses outside Sana'a. So, many of these houses are empty and in disrepair."

Despite their remarkable work on preserving the record of Yemeni architecture, the Marechaux couple admit to having no bearing at all on changing government policy towards the architecture in North or South Yemen. "We have no influence, although as architects, we have tried to design a few buildings (in Yemen)."

"Maria has been doing the design of a museum. I have a hotel project on the Red Sea, but it has not been built. In those projects, we have tried to take into account lessons from traditional architecture."

In recent years, however, the cause of the preservation of the remaining traditional buildings in Yemen has been taken up by both governments and the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

But neither Maria nor Pascal Marechaux have any plans to give up their plans to record architecture in the whole of Yemen - "so huge with such a wide variety." After that, they said, they might enlarge their field of interest to seek a better understanding of the historical links between Yemen and the cultures of the Middle East as a whole.

ECONOMY

The Star

Jordan's external debts under the microscope

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN - Ministry of Finance sources have said that total repayment of debts for this year will amount to JD 89 million of which JD 56.9 million are instalments on loans. Another JD 32 million are interests on loans. The sources said the government is committed to settling these dues on time and has no intention of re-scheduling them.

On Tuesday, Central Bank Governor Dr Mohammad Said Nabulsi said that Central Bank's foreign currency reserves were \$380 million. He said in a press statement that reserves had reached \$500 million in December of last year but that figure dropped to its current level because the country resumed repayment of its foreign debts in accordance with its agreements with international lenders.

During the last quarter of 1988, Jordan began feeling the pressure of external debts on the national economy. Accordingly, the country started an economic restructuring programme in order to ease the debt burden. It began applying a number of austerity measures in addition to developing new approaches to economic revitalisation.

However, the responsibilities of servicing the Kingdom's foreign debt will continue for at least the end of this decade.

A number of Jordanian economists argued that Jordan has not managed the crisis and the re-

scheduling negotiations successfully because repayment will start soon and will deplete the foreign currency reserves at the Central Bank.

Others considered the grace period as a break that would enable Jordan to get the vehicle of economic growth moving again.

The official view sees Jordan overcoming its economic problems by creating different, non-traditional, areas of economic growth in order to establish a loan repayment "pipeline system." This approach looks at the country's foreign exchange reserves and addresses the issue of how to bring more foreign currencies to Jordan.

Policy makers may help in this approach by considering facilities that will encourage such "non-traditional" economic growth areas. New business trends in the country cannot succeed without government support.

By the end of 1988, Jordan's net lending position amounted to \$8303.80 million. Out of this figure, net lending during 1980, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987 and 1988 represented 10.8%, 7.3%,



Dr Mohammad Said Nabulsi

reached \$11,556.2 million, bringing the total of contracted loans, at the end of 1988, to \$11,758.90 million.

- Developmental loans: Total developmental loans contracted until the end of 1988 amounted to \$3801.4 million of which \$1,091.0 million was settled, showing a net lending position until 1988, of \$2,710.4 million.

- Commercial loans: Out of a total of \$1,062.7 million contracted loans until 1988, \$110.5 million was settled, leaving a net lending position of \$952.2 million.

Public security loans: The total contracted on this type of loans reached, by the end of 1988, \$155.4 million. Deducting \$15.9 million in settled loans, the net lending position on public

8.8%, 13.9%, 7.8% and 18.8% respectively. Those six years accounted for nearly 67 per cent of Jordan's total external debts until 1988.

Total contracted loans before 1972 amounted to \$202.7 million and between 1973 and 1988 total loans contracted

lic security loans amounted, by the end of 1988, to \$139.5 million.

- Military loans: Total military loans contracted amounted to \$4,551.2 million, of which \$1,381.2 million was settled, which leaves a net lending position of \$3,170.0 million.

Guarantees: Total guarantees signed amounted to 2,188.2 million. Out of this total, about \$856.50 million was settled, representing a net guarantees lending position of \$1,331.7 million.

According to the above breakdown, the total net lending position of \$8,303.8 million is distributed as follows (figures in millions of US dollars). Developmental \$2,710.4 (32.6%); Commercial, \$952.2 (11.5%); Public security, \$139.5 (1.7%); military, \$3,170.0 (38.2%); and guarantees, \$1,331.7 (16.0%).

Jordan's net lending position of \$8,303.8 million can be broken down into seven consecutive periods.

Before 1972, 1973-1976, 1977-1979, 1980, 1981-1983, 1984 and 1985-1988, the accumulation of external debts as follows: before 1972, 199.7 million (2.4%); 1973-1976, \$5.4 million (5.4%); 1977-1979, \$1,192.8 million (14.3%); 1980, \$813.7 million (10.7%); 1981-1983, \$1,202.5 million (14.5%); 1984, \$730.3 million (8.8%); and 1985-1988, \$3,650.7 million (43.9%).

Role of accounting in development debated

By Riham Dajani
Special to The Star

AMMAN - The second Arab International Accounting Conference ends here today, Thursday, after a two-day meeting which was attended by 400 representatives of leading accounting and auditing institutions in the world.

The conference, which opened Tuesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, discussed the important role accounting plays as an instrument for development and decisions making.

"Accounting is not a mere statistical recording of the financial

status of an institution but an indicator to be considered by investors," President of the Arab Society for Certified Accountants (ASCA) Mr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh who chaired the conference told a press conference on Monday.

Describing the event as unique and difficult to organise, Mr. Abu Ghazaleh said it is really hard for such a large number of leading personalities to gather at the same time and at the same place.

The conference was organised by the ASCA in co-operation with the Arab Thought Forum, the Accounting Commission, Auditing Profession Council in Jordan, and the Society of Jordanian auditors.

JEA to save \$18 million from Jordan-Egypt electricity grid

AMMAN (STAR) - Jordan will save \$13 million that would have been spent on new power stations from the electricity grid network that will connect the Kingdom with Egypt, according to Eng. Mohammad Said Arafah, general director of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

In an interview with Ad-Dustour newspaper this week, Mr. Arafah said another \$5 million will be saved in the first year of operation from differences in operation costs of power stations in both countries. The project will also save money on maintenance and emergency breakdowns.

Mr. Arafah said a feasibility study is underway to determine the possibility of expanding electricity grids to include Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. He expected the financial return on the project to be in neighbourhood of 9 per cent.

He said that 11 tender documents are being prepared for the Egypt-Jordan grid and that all except for the laying of the sea cable, will be executed by Jordanians. The sea cable will be 10 kilometers long at a depth of 800 meters. Work is expected to finish by the end of 1993.

The Jordanian-Egyptian co-



Mohammad Said Arafah

operation is part of inter-Arab complementarity in the field of energy which will include Arab Gulf states.

Mr. Arafah said that JEA has successfully developed sparepart industries to overcome increasing prices of foreign-made parts for the power stations. JEA director estimated the Authority's annual expenses and cost of foreign-made spareparts to be around JD 100 million. He called for developing energy-related Arab industries and said that the Arab World spends over \$10 billion on producing and distributing electric power.

Briefs

● The Government has decided to re-lend 4.75 million Kuwaiti dinars (KD) of the total loan of KD 8 million granted to Jordan by the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development to the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. The money will be used in financing parts of the company's operational projects.

● The Government has received a number of applications from Arab investors to build tourist projects in the Dead Sea area. Other investors have applied for building industrial projects based on Dead Sea salts.

● The Cabinet has decided to allow elections to be held to form an eight-member board of directors of the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) from the representatives of the Jordanian co-operative organisations. Elections will take place for the first time since 1967 when the Government's Economic Security Committee began appointing members of the board of directors of JCO.

● Central bank sources have said that treasury notes will be issued in US dollars for the first time in Jordan and will yield returns in the same currency. The notes will be available to residents and expatriate Jordanians.

● An official report has estimated the annual operation costs of government cars and heavy vehicles at JD 26 million of which JD 9 million are salaries to drivers, JD 4.5 million for fuel and lubricants, JD 2.5 million for maintenance, 1.5 million for tires and JD 5 million for insurance. Capital cost is estimated at JD 7.5 million while the average annual operation cost for each vehicle is JD 4,000.

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22 MARCH 1990



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Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	8. 1/4	8.	15. 1/16	7.68	8.3/4
2 mo.	8. 5/16	8. 1/8	15. 1/8	7.62	9. 13/16
3 mo.	8. 3/8	8. 1/4	15. 1/4	7.56	9. 15/16
6 mo.	8. 9/16	8.	15. 7/16	7.68	9. 1/16
1 year	8. 13/16	9. 3/16	15. 9/16	7.80	9. 1/8

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 7%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.325%, 1 month 8.825%, 2 months 9.0%, 3 months 9.25%, 1 year 9.5%. Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:

DMK SFR STG YEN CAN FRF

LAST 1.6851/56 1.5082/89 1.6150/60 153.18/25 1.1814/19 5.6995/25

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Gold & Silver

Gold	JD
1kg	8,900,000
21 ct	7,750
18 ct	6,650
Eng. pound	64,500
8g	56,250
Rashad:	9,750
7g	
24ct (swiss)	
Silver	
1 kg	160,000

Money Matters

Average exchange rates on in Jds

Sunday 18/3/1990

	Buy	Sell
US\$	670.0	674.0
£	1084.7	1091.2
DM	394.5	396.9
Sfr	443.8	446.5
FRF	116.8	117.5
YEN	438.5	441.2
(100)		
DFL	350.0	352.3
SKR	108.6	109.3
LIT	53.5	53.8
(100)		
BLF	188.9	190.0
(10)		

Consumer Watch

Economy Cooking

AS AN Arab, the Jordanian housewife is used to a traditional pattern of cooking which is passed on from one generation to another. This pattern is a set of household cooking habits which have become traditionally acceptable. However, modern living requirements and economic conditions have made certain habits unacceptable. Time-consuming cooking is no longer feasible. What is more unacceptable are certain meals which satisfy expensive taste habits.

The Star interviewed five housewives who are full-time workers and have long-term career ambitions. They argued that the husband shares half of the responsibility for keeping such habits alive. They assumed the other half of the responsibility, because they deeply felt that these habits were part of a tradition they are proud of. They said that Jordan's austerity objectives do not aim at changing such traditions, but it is not fair for a working woman to spend four hours cooking for a two-to-three member family. It is unacceptable to cook a meal comprising nine expensive ingredients of which only one ingredient can be considered of proper human nutritional value.

Two out of the five working housewives preferred to take the change approach very slowly. Two of the five housewives totally opposed any change in any of their habits, and were able to convince a third that they were right. The Star lost the round with a three-against-two vote.

Economy cooking is never a case of austerity vs traditions. It is a case of eating proper food according to one's living conditions.

Contracts & Contacts

- Irbid Governorate, gravel overlays, three tenders, JD 25, JD 15 and JD 15, 24/3/1990.
- Ministry of Supply, 15/90, trucking transport, JD 10, 26/3/1990.
- Jordan Sulpho-Chemical Co., sale of 3-ton and 2.5-ton forklifts and 26-passenger and 14-passenger buses, 991434/991435, 26/3/1990.
- University of Jordan, 9/90, disposable plastic cups, JD 15, 26/3/1990.
- Ramtha Municipality, 50,000 trash bags (black, 80 c.m.l., 60 c.m.w., 47 microne thick, 50 grams. w. 26/3/1990).
- Yahya Trading and Services, 699191, personal computers, 27/3/1990.
- Armed Forces / Air Force - Airport Engineering, HMS/181, overlay (4 c.m. by 13,000 sq. m), JD 10, 31/3/1990.
- Agricultural Credit Corp. specialised electrical installation contractor, JD 2, 31/3/1990.
- Armed Forces/Directorate of Purchases, musical instruments, 31/3/1990.
- Civil Aviation Authority, T 5/90, u-shape florescent lamps, JD 5, 31/3/1990.
- Civil Consumer Corp., 69/90, manual carpet brooms, 3000-5000 pieces, 31/3/1990; 79/90, tea (sticks), 200-250 tons, 31/3/1990.
- University of Science and Technology, 7/90, laboratory supplies, JD 15, 22/4/1990; 8/90, equipment for artesian well, JD 15, 1/4/1990; 9/90, metal and wood materials to be used as sealers, JD 10, 1/4/1990; 10/90, wood and metal materials for engineering workshops, JD 10, 1/4/1990.
- National Medical Institution, audio-visual preparations and air conditioning and cooling for a new building at Princes Basma Hospital, JD 10 each, 1/4/1990.
- Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co., 2/90, Insurance of vehicles and 3/90 Insurance of the company's assets and imports, JD 5 and JD 20 respectively, 2/4/1990.

This service is free-of-charge. To publish your tenders in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with tender, auction, public sale, garage sale, bazaar sale, etc., details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Industrial Estates

Arab Electrical Industries Co.

Location: Amman Industrial Estate / Sahab
Invested capital: JD 1.5 million
Number of workers: 80 workers
Starting production date: 1985

Type of production:

The company produces electrical chimas, plugs and switches with an annual production of 2.5 million pieces of all mentioned kinds and exporting about 90 % to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus, Malta, Italy and Nigeria.

Arab Electrical Industries Co.
P.O. Box:
Amman Industrial Estate Sahab
Tel: 723499
Tlx: 23724

Sahab Industrial High School at Amman Industrial Estate

The school was established in 1984 on an area of 275,00 sq. metres of which the building occupies an area of 7500 sq. metres. The number of people employed by the school is 45 while 600 students attend classes. Duration of study is 2 years after the 10th grade. The following majors are available: Electricity, industrial electronics, general mechanics, car mechanics, carpentry, industrial machines, iron smith, business, soldering, aluminium works, upholstery and decor. At the end of the two years, the students sit for the Tawjihi exam / industrial stream. The school's location was chosen to be within the industrial estate so that students can be close to industrial environment.

Shows & Exhibitions

M.E Risk Control 90

THE MIDDLE East Risk Control 90, an exhibition for fire protection, security, safety and civil defence, is scheduled for 12-15 November 1990 at the Exhibition Centre in Bahrain.

The exhibition is organised by the Arabian Exhibition Management WLL of Bahrain, in association with the Overseas Exhibition Services Ltd, (Member of the Andry Montgomery Group UK). Contact: Stephen Key, Arabian Exhibition Management WLL, P.O. Box 20200, Manama, Bahrain.

The show will specialise in fire protection and prevention, security, industrial safety and civil defence.

Al Yamama offset project gaining momentum

Several Saudi-British joint ventures approved and many in the offing

AFTER AN inauspicious start, the Al Yamama Economic Offset Programme between Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom is picking up momentum.

The ambitious \$25.4 billion programme, which is designed to bring \$1.7 billion in UK investment to the Kingdom over the next 10-15 years, has faced obstacles ranging from Saudi Arabian arrears, to a British lack of enthusiasm, to a perceived shortage of investment opportunities. But a \$3.4 billion cash injection last December by the Saudis cleared up the Kingdom's Al Yamama related debts and the programme is finally making some progress.

January brought the approval of two more offset arrangements, bringing the total offset related commitment to four large-scale projects, with a combined value of \$160 million. The deals were approved at a London meeting of the Saudi-British Joint Offset Committee. British Aerospace (BAe), the prime contractor in the Al Yamama arms deal, is the foreign partner in two projects, and the Saudi partners for three of them will be announced this spring.

The Committee approved a Jubail acrylic products venture, to be led by BAe. This project began as an acrylic sheet production plant in collaboration with Rosero International of Switzerland. The acrylic would initially be used in sanitary ware, but later would be put to use in other areas, such as furniture and boat manufacturing.

In addition, the UK's Fryma Fabrics will be the foreign partner in a downstream polyethylene yarn facility.

The first two deals under the Al Yamama umbrella were approved in November, 1989. BAe will build British Aerospace aviation high-tech, an \$84.6-million air-to-air missile maintenance plant, with Dowty Roto.

The other 1989 deal acknowledges Rolls-Royce of the UK's

participation in the Middle East Propulsion Centre. This \$64-million aircraft engine repair and overhaul plant began as a part of the Peace Shield programme - Saudi Arabia's 1985 offset arrangement with the US - with participation by General Electric and Pratt & Whitney. Now the three foreigners hold equal portions of the 50 per cent foreign stake in the project. Saudi interests which make up the remaining 50 per cent of the centre include: Saudia (25 per cent),

In addition to the investments mentioned, BAe is considering, among others, a single cell protein plant with Dansk Bioprotein of Denmark, computer education and training facilities, and joining the Al Salam project with Boeing Industrial Technology Group (BITG) of the US and its Saudi partners. BAe has applied to establish BAE International in the kingdom this spring, a liaison office to oversee Saudi-British offset activities.

But other UK companies are

part, but many companies feel that the most profitable and feasible ideas have been snapped up. On top of that the Al Yamama programme stipulates that approximately \$1.7 billion must be invested by British firms in Saudi joint ventures with equal Saudi partners -- in other words, opportunities worth twice that amount must be found.

The Al Yamama deal originated in July, 1985, as a \$6.5 billion aircraft purchase. At that time, the British agreed to encourage investment in the Kingdom, but although the Saudis pushed for an offset deal, nothing materialised.

By 1988, the UK acquiesced to an offset agreement. As the arms purchase expanded to one of the UK's largest ever, Saudi Arabia was anxious to show that its extensive military spending could have positive economic benefits.

The Kingdom agreed to purchase a total of \$26 billion in arms, including 120 Tornado combat jets and over 200 other aircraft and helicopters, minichuters, weapons and training facilities including a full-scale airbase. The UK in turn, agreed to offset 25 per cent of the technical content of Al Yamama through joint investment in Saudi ventures over the next 10-15 years. The two Defence Ministries set up guidelines for British firms to seek Saudi ventures.

The Al Yamama deal committed the two countries to support new ventures which would involve a transfer of technology; enhance Saudi Arabia's technological, managerial and professional skills; manufacture products either to replace Saudi imports or which would have ex-

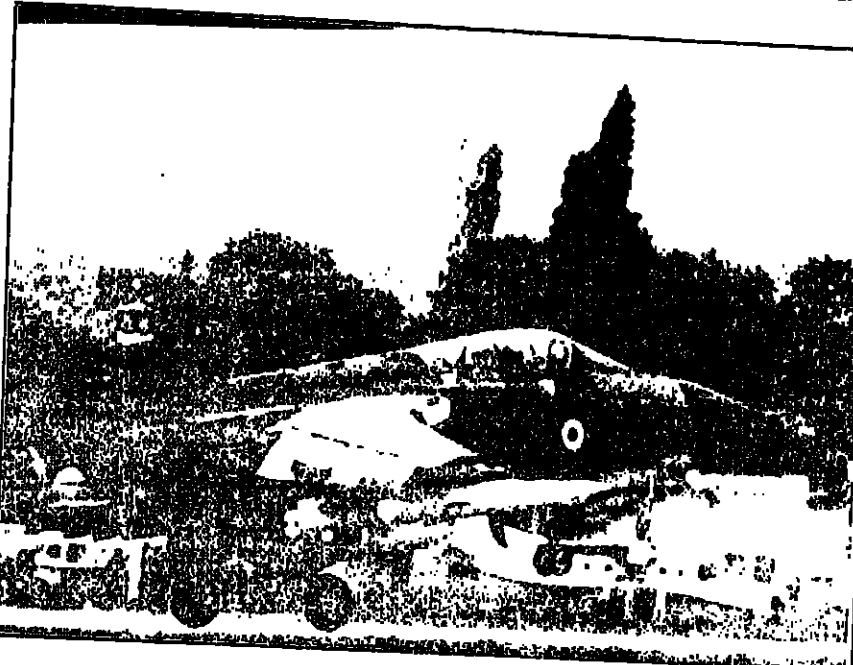
port potential; and/or manufacture products that would help service the infrastructure.

Al Yamama followed the February, 1985, Peace Shield agreement with the US's Boeing Co. The difference is that investment was not limited to aircraft-related technology, but went so far as to include any joint venture -- including Saudi investment in the UK. In contrast, the Peace Shield programme stipulated that 35 per cent of the contract be in Saudi-based aviation maintenance-oriented companies, or in electronics manufacturing, biotechnology or medical products.

From the outset, the UK offset programme ran into snags. The British government offered no incentives to its companies to invest in the Kingdom. In contrast, Saudi Arabia offered its usual array of soft loans from Saudi Industrial Development Fund of up to 50 per cent of cost, corporate tax exemptions of up to 10 per cent, tariff exemptions on imported equipment and low cost utilities.

This year, other steps are being taken to get Al Yamama off the ground. A number of modifications were recently suggested by the Saudis at a January meeting of Saudi and British businessmen in Jeddah. First, the investment threshold should be lowered in order to attract medium sized entrepreneurs who can afford ventures of around \$3 million to \$5 million. Also, the lead time between proposal and approval of projects must be shortened. The business men suggested that banks in both the UK and in Saudi Arabia step in a streamline the approval process.

On the British side, to further aid the Saudis more of the contract will be paid in Saudi crude oil. The Kingdom now supplies the UK with 400,000 barrels per day (b/d) -- double the oil supplied before Al Yamama. The two countries are now considering increasing supplies by 25 per cent, to 500,000 b/d.



National Industrialisation Co. (NIC) (10 per cent) and Saudi Advanced Industries Co. (SAIC) (5 per cent).>

The Committee is still considering whether to allow BAe to join a proposed private sector aluminium smelter project at Yanbu.

UK interest in the programme is not lacking, but the British government would like to see more non-BAe participation and proposals. Of the eight formal proposals submitted by mid-January of this year, BAe holds the major foreign stake in five.

Tunisia liberalises its economy

By John Haldane

THE TUNISIAN government continues to push an economic liberalisation programme designed to increase the role of economic incentives and reduce the number of direct government controls. Import regulations have been relaxed considerably as economic expansion, fueled by rising exports of manufactured goods, requires higher levels of imports to feed industry. The import of raw materials and semi-finished products has been liberalised. Subsequently, the importation of goods rose 26 per cent to \$3.8 billion last year, compared to a 9 per cent increase in 1988. Enterprises which export more than 15 per cent of their production now may freely import all the materials and equipment they require.

The success of Tunisia's export drive is reflected in improved showings by most of the manufacturing industries. Those producing for the domestic market grew by 4 per cent, while export-oriented sectors expanded 12 per cent. Customs tariffs on imports of capital goods have been cut considerably, with the maximum customs tariff in effect reduced to 43 per cent from 220 per cent. Tunisian officials plan to reduce the maximum rate further to 25 per cent by 1991. Tunisia is in the final phase of negotiations for full membership in the GATT.

The Tunisian economy now is moving toward a modern, open system with a more prominent role assigned to the private sector and less interference by government agencies. The slow but steady privatisation of many state firms is continuing, as the government looks increasingly to the private sector to make the kind of productive investment necessary to cope with one of the country's major economic problems - chronic unemployment.

Major goals for 1990 are consolidation of the improvement in the balance of payments and higher levels of investment. Increased exports of food products, textiles and mechanical and electrical equipment, all will play their part, but the most significant contribution should again come from the tourism sector. Tourism was up 50 per cent last year, primarily due to the more than one million Libyans who visited Tunisia. The Libyans spent over \$600 million, pushing income from tourism in 1989 to nearly \$1.5 billion.

beginning to show interest in the offset programme. Between February 16 and 21, a 15-member UK delegation visited the kingdom. The visit was attended by Peter Ford, commercial counselor at the UK embassy, and Nigel Reeder, the Riyadh representative at the British offset office. Participants included ICI, Pillington, GKN, STC, British Gas and BAe. The delegation visited Jeddah, Asir, Jubail and Riyadh.

According to the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the delegation marked the first of a series of visits designed to introduce UK companies to the Saudi Arabian business climate. Future visits will be at six-month intervals, with the mutual goal of awakening the British to various opportunities for investment while demonstrating to the Saudi that the UK is committed to aiding Saudi Arabian development.

These visits may help push Al Yamama toward its ambitious investment target. Apparently, until now UK companies have been wary both of the Saudi bureaucracy and the Saudi method of doing business -- which involves establishing contacts, travelling back and forth to the Kingdom numerous times, and an enormous amount of patience. Once a project is proposed, both Defence Ministries as well as the joint Saudi British Offset Committee must approve it. Ideally, the process should take no more than six weeks. But in practice the bureaucracy is cumbersome, and only the largest and most profitable British companies can afford such patience.

Potential investors have also perceived a shortage of investment opportunities in the Kingdom, especially with the Peace Shield programme also in effect. Al Yamama may be broader in scope than its American counterpart.

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Our Say

Coming of age

THE CLOSED session of the Lower House of Parliament which took place on Tuesday and was dedicated to discussing a report on financial and administrative corruption in public institutions, is a landmark in the role and function of the elected deputies in this country. The sensitivity of the issue necessitated a secret session, but Jordanians from all walks of life will monitor the developments of this extremely important subject with great interest.

The session also marked a positive evolution in the relation between the legislative and the executive bodies, since one of the highlights of the return to democratic system of government in Jordan has been the reinstatement of an effective elected body to act as a watchdog over public establishments. While corruption and mismanagement was mostly an isolated occurrence in previous Jordanian governments and not a rampant phenomenon, the need for an independent body to check illegal and unethical actions of government officials is a legitimate one in any modern state.

What needs to be addressed at this stage are the causes behind previous crimes against public interest. The Lower House, in co-operation with the government, should work out a system of checks and balances to prevent future misuse of public funds or abuse of official positions. The damage rendered by past irresponsible officials was heavy compared with the Kingdom's limited means and special economic situation. The present economic crisis is partly due to cases of mismanagement, corruption and irresponsible actions on the part of senior government officials.

For the democratic process to be complete, the judicial body must function independently to determine the innocence or guilt of officials involved. This too will be watched by Jordanians with great interest since the main demand by Jordan electorates in last November elections was that cases of corruption be investigated by the House and culprits be brought to justice.

Still one must not forget the purpose behind the democratic process. For it to work efficiently and successfully, democracy must be allowed to function in a proper manner. The current investigations into corruption must not be allowed to be turned into a witch hunt, which may have negative impacts on the country's social structure. The three estates must be allowed to work freely and independently each in its own domain to bring justice and establish a system of government that is both efficient and responsible.

In the few months since democracy was restored to the country, Jordanians have been adapting to a new way of life characterised by openness, freedom of press and expression and a gradual end to martial laws. Like any new process, democracy has had its ups and downs. People are learning to cope with the demands as well as the fruits of democratic system of government. The lower House is but one party, albeit an essential one, of democratic institutions.

Now that the wheels of justice are beginning to move, other bodies that make up the democratic system must be allowed to function and complete their job.

As the attorney general begins to investigate the nine cases of corruption which have been referred to him by the Lower House, our attention will focus on the process of legal pursuit. Democracy in Jordan is coming of age and it is at this vital stage that our support and attention are required.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Group effort

To the Editor,

I LIKE the view expressed by Ms Mariam Abu Rish (The Star 15 March) on the role of the local media in handling the country's economic issues. She had a strong point and put forward an effective argument in relation to her interest as a concerned citizen.

However, she presented a one-sided argument. How she views her role in making a future for this country's economy is, I believe, more serious than how the local media would handle it.

There is no doubt that she is concerned about the country's future and that she made an honest step towards addressing the "very" group responsible for each message. Nevertheless, Ms Abu Rish is invited to join her efforts to ours and work hard to make a better future for all of us.

A Journalist,
Amman.

The Star

12 THE STAR

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22 MARCH 1990



Jalal Rifai
Ad-Dustour

Should US aid to Israel shrink?

The following article by Thomas Stauffer appeared in *The Christian Science Monitor*, 20, March issue.

GIVING AID to Israel has suddenly become an unexpectedly hot topic in Washington. "A taboo is being tackled," in the words of *The Defence and Foreign Policy Journal*.

The question, first raised by Sen. Robert Dole (R) of Kansas in January, is especially dangerous for Israel, because he asks not "whether" but, instead, "how much?" This issue is dangerous because Israel is conspicuously and uniquely blessed with United States aid - the total for Israel is well over \$4,000 million per year, from all sources, plus at least another \$2,500 million in trade privileges.

Actual totals may be higher still because much aid is negotiated outside of annual foreign aid appropriations. No recent overview is available.

Aid to Israel is double "high-profile." Israel is by far the wealthiest recipient of US aid and it gets by far the most. This imbalance was described as "unfair, inequitable, and indefensible" in a circular letter from Rep. George Crockett Jr., a member of the congressional black caucus, and nine House colleagues.

They noted that every Israeli gets \$700 per head, "while every African would receive just a little more than one dollar." Seven hundred times more for Israeli Jews than for African blacks. They called for a "major re-assessment of our foreign aid programmes."

Among the large beneficiaries of US aid, Egypt comes in a far distant second with barley \$40 per head. Even the proposed aid to Poland would still be less than \$25 per head - one twenty-eighth of what Israel now gets just from US official sources. Ironically, the poorest countries get the least.

The new challenge to Israel's special benefits comes from diverse sources. Senators Dole and Robert Byrd (D) of West Virginia are concerned with budget constraints. Liberals focus on Israel's growing record of human rights abuses, especially since the Intifada, the Palestinian uprising that began in December 1987. Conservatives boggle at supporting the Israeli welfare state. "The US taxpayer is subsidising the government of Israel, which in turn uses the money to subsidise its own socialistic economy," wrote an Israeli economist, Alvin Rabushka, in a report from the Hoover Institution, a conservative think tank.

Even Polish-Americans have joined the fray. Edward Moskal, president of the

Polish-American Congress, described the billions for Israel as "incomprehensible" in a letter to Senator Dole urging aid for the "new democracies" of Eastern Europe.

Adding to Israel's woes, the traditional rationale for US aid - the need to counter the Soviets in the Middle East - is less credible with the winding down of the cold war.

However, congressional support is still formidable. Seventy-three senators opposed any cut for Israel, in spite of the noted imbalance. Indeed, there still is momentum for an increase in US aid. In a telephone interview, an official of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Israel's lobby in Washington, said an increase is justified even if programmes for Americans themselves must be cut back.

Sen. Dan Inouye (D) of Hawaii has suggested adding another \$1,000 million to Israel's benefits, while the Israeli government has submitted a demand for \$400 million more in the form of "loan guarantees," the financial equivalent of grants since Israel cannot now service its debt.

Official Aid to Israel is already \$3,000 million, to which AIPAC reckons another 600-plus million in off-budget items, including the requirement that the US buy 30 cents-worth of goods from Israeli weapons manufacturers for every one dollar that we give in military aid. Unofficial aid is also important. Jewish organisations here raised almost another \$1,000 million each year in sales of low-interest Israel bonds or tax-deductible contributions to the United Jewish Appeal, etc. Israel's vulnerability on the aid issue is acute. It is "hooked" on US welfare because even after 40 years of unremitting aid, its economy remains uncompetitive and requires ever more US money.

Senator Dole opened a veritable Pandora's box. Budget watchers challenged the millions for Israel, given the deficit. Military strategists challenge the need to right wing challenges financing Israel's welfare state. Competing ethnic groups in the US - Poles, Greeks, and blacks - challenge the "inequitable" distribution of aid benefits as such.

Today "more for Israel" means "less for everyone else." AIPAC justifies that argument because it points out that Israel's needs are great. However, today more and more "needs" are emerging, competing for scarce US funds. Israel for the first time risks losing its lion's share of US aid money.

Thomas Stauffer is adjunct professor at Georgetown University in Washington.

Exports: A matter of life or death

By Riad Al Khouri

I STRONGLY believe that Jordan's present economic problems cannot be solved without a comprehensive look at factors affecting exports.

Jordan's potential export capacity appears to be high but while under-utilised capital, human and natural resources all point to the country's ability to produce and export more, non-traditional exports remain weak. Israel, for example, is successfully developing such exports as flowers, exotic fruits and vegetables, and health products in a clear move away from traditional products. There is an urgent and critical need to increase Jordan's exports in the context of the overall balance of payments. Correctly or otherwise, government policy, legislation, and regulations are not seen as supporting exports sufficiently (and are even seen by some as discouraging). It is likely that one of the key elements missing in the picture is the appropriate policy and institutional framework.

Is it true to say that Jordan does not have a coherent, long-term policy concerning exports? The existence of such a policy would assure emigrant or foreign investors and would also provide a consistent and stable framework for laws, and economic and financial matters, allowing for suitable planning periods for businessmen.

We should aim for new economic policies in general and export policies in particular to encourage consistency and stability, and formulate other policies or change existing ones to encourage exports.

After extensive research four areas have been identified where there may be problems. These are:

1. Providing export support services.
2. Simplifying procedures and paperwork for obtaining export licenses and similar documents.
3. Establishing appropriate standards and specifications, and
4. Improving marketing.

1. Support Services for small, new or currently non-exporting firms

The most obvious and important support the government could provide to such firms is a policy which is seen to be encouraging production for exports and which publicises the various Jordanian and foreign measures what could help exporters. On a more specific level, laws and regulations could be introduced or amended to encourage the concept of export houses to help small and newly exporting firms. For example, Jordanian banks could become directly involved in export houses if current rules were changed.

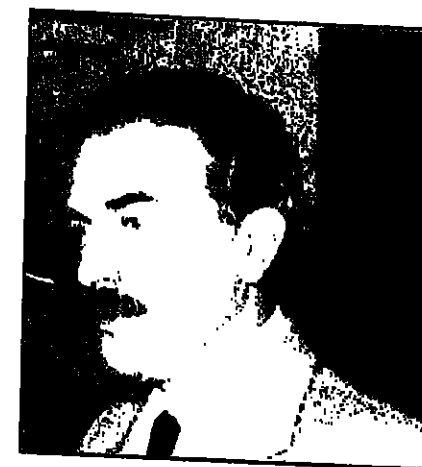
Success of newly industrialised countries (NIS) is based on an export-led economy emerging. This has

been reached through the partnership between public and private sectors, which can be achieved through a proper regulatory framework that gives incentives. But can we provide incentives for businessmen to go into export house arrangements which will transfer expertise to small firms?

Incentives can be given for export increase over base of audited figures for the previous year, particularly for third party export.

2. Simplifying procedures

Previous studies (as well as my research) indicate that the paperwork involved in obtaining an export license or related documents is needlessly time-consuming. The emphasis should be facilitative rather than regulatory. Consideration may be given to abolishing export licenses. Other-



adjusted to provide support to exporters.

4. Marketing

In general, and on a higher level, Jordan has a good image internationally. Specifically, however, many of the country's exports or products are not well known or are not respected. How can existing government regulations be changed to provide incentives or other supports for marketing activities? For example, the tax-deduction for various expenses incurred by exporters outside the country in this and similar fields are often disallowed. Laws in Jordan can begin to encourage marketing consulting services for exports if the taxman agrees.

Jordan has a fine network of embassies and consulates in a large number of areas. This can be put to use to help the private sector. What are the changes needed in policies, laws and regulations for foreign trade "officers" to be installed in

key foreign cities to help Jordan exporters? Market information is crucial. How can government help encourage its provision? Export promotion funds are used in many NICs to help finance marketing services. Can this be done in Jordan? Probably, if foreign aid donors decide to make the best use of the limited funds they are now offering us.

I have focused on these four points because I feel that they are in areas where short-term change is possible and necessary. It may be that other changes are needed in the policy and regulatory framework. In any case, we want change in the short-run as a first step towards long-term adjustment in trade and production. Without change, we are going to get into more trouble. Samih Darwazah, chairman of the Jordan Trade Association and a successful exporter himself put it well when he told me that "exports are a matter of life or death for Jordan or any company working in the country." And without this feeling of urgency, no change will be possible.

Riad Al Khouri is an economic consultant and director of Middle East Business Associates, Amman, and Associated Middle East Consultant, Beirut.

View Point

by
Yacoub Jaber

Stalemate

A STALEMATE in the Middle East peace efforts is most likely to result from the fall of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government.

Shamir is now heading a transitional government unable to take important decisions. The transitional period may last for several months during which rival parties compete to form a minority cabinet. The protracted period will give Shamir the opportunity to avoid any step which could advance the peace process. He will be in no position to give US Secretary of State James Baker any response to his proposals for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The chances of Labour Party leader Shimon Peres to form a narrow government are said to have substantially improved, but even the small parties he plans to bring into his projected government differ with Labour over the peace process.

Peres may be willing to give Baker positive answers to his proposals, but still he will be captive to the voices of the small parties with whom he would form his coalition cabinet. He may find it extremely difficult to take decisive decisions on questions of crucial importance such as a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue with the participation of a delegation endorsed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Moreover, the Labour Party's stand towards East Jerusalem and the question of an independent Palestinian state is an obstacle to a final settlement. Like Likud, the Labour Party considers the whole of Jerusalem the "eternal capital of Israel" and opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. No Palestinian will venture to concede East Jerusalem under any settlement as an inseparable part of Israel. The city was occupied by military force in the 1967 war and whatever applies to the occupied territories applies to it.

If, on the other hand, Shamir succeeds in forming a new government in coalition with the extremist religious parties, the situation will worsen even further.

Early general elections might in the end be held to determine Israel's next leadership. With the Israelis leaning increasingly towards the right, Likud is more favourable to win the elections, bringing the situation back to the same old vicious circle.

That is why a prolonged stalemate seems looming in the offing, unless the United States forcibly intervenes and exerts the kind of pressure that would prompt Israel to negotiate peace on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions. A great deal will in the end depend on how far the Bush administration is serious in its endeavour to bring about peace in this troubled region.

THE STAR 13

In defence of Palestinian rights

By Felicia Langer

A NEW era commenced on December 8, 1987, which is considered the beginning of the popular Palestinian rebellion called the Intifada. In a way similar to ancient Greece, where times were marked from one Olympiad to another, the Palestinians and we in Israel have begun to mark time from the beginning of the Intifada - a land-mark of utmost importance, the uprising against years of repressive rule.

Much has been written about the Intifada, whose Arabic name has become common in all languages and is frequently used even by its worst enemies. The tales of the heroic Palestinian children, whom I have accompanied on their Via Dolorosa for many years, generation after generation, are passed from person to person and arouse much admiration. Even those who labour to destroy the Intifada are forced to admit that they did not imagine the Palestinian people capable of such courage, such ingenuity, or such steadfastness in the face of all the means and methods used against them.

The Intifada opened the eyes of many in Israel and became a major catalyst for peace. Its political message, so lucid from the very beginning, developed body and form through the PNC's declaration of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied territories and the right of Israel to exist and a hand outstretched for peace - which has become so realistic and obtainable.

The Intifada has gained admiration for its astonishing balance of glory and political achievement - the result of unity within the ranks and the PLO's clever and responsible policy. What is really chilling is the terrible price that the defenseless civilian Palestinian population has been forced to pay through those killed and wounded by the IDF and the settlers who, since the beginning of the Intifada, have been trying to drown it in blood.

Even those who kept silent in Israel, and by doing so condoned the occupation for years, have now raised their voices in protest against the crimes being perpetrated in the territories by the occupation authorities. Shocking photographs of the wounded, the disabled and the bereaved have appeared in the press, yet they provide no more than a glimpse of what occurs daily in the territories: photographs unfortunately cannot convey the depths of the population's suffering, as it accumulates from one day to the next.

Getting accustomed to the daily death toll

Indeed, something has come about which many conscientious people in our country have feared: The daily toll of repression is now being tallied at one or two deaths and dozens of wounded each day. The Israeli public will get accustomed to this, and so will international public opinion, despite the scant information resulting from the frequent closure to journalists of the territories.

Casualty reports no longer appear on the front pages of newspapers. The killed and wounded

Palestinians have become nameless and faceless victims. The atrocities have become routine events.

As of November 1989, the Israeli suppression of the Intifada had claimed 735 lives and an estimated 80,000 wounded, including women and children. Amnesty International, in its January 1990 report, stated it "feared the Israeli government had effectively condoned and even encouraged" the killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces.

The hospitals are full of people injured by plastic bullets or beatings. The prisons and prison camps are crammed with thousands of detainees: During the two years of the Intifada, 55,000 Palestinians have been arrested, 8,500 of them imprisoned without charge under "administrative detention"; today about 14,237 remain in prison, among them about 2,000 administrative detainees.

The number of Palestinians disabled by bullets and beatings is legion. Thousands of teenagers are being denied an education because of school closures. Thousands more have been left helpless by the military government's closure of all charity institutions. Dozens have been expelled. Many families have been left without a roof over their heads as hundreds of homes have been demolished. 77,698 trees have been uprooted, and farmers have been prevented from working their land and from harvesting and marketing their crops.

The tens of thousands of Palestinians left disabled by such violence, including children, should cause horror. These people will populate the villages and refugee camps, and yet there is almost no means to rehabilitate them, especially now with the destruction of the collapsing health system.

Many complaints have been piling up in my office since the beginning of the Intifada - including the actions of the Border Police in Balata refugee camp, the breaking of bones in Nablus and elsewhere, the severe injuring of Gaza residents, and those who have been killed in prison or executed by the death squads. The official investigation of these complaints are nothing but a mockery, and in some cases the authorities have decided to press charges against the perpetrators, the court proceedings have been very benevolent, with those convicted receiving very light sentences and routinely being pardoned later on.

Anyone who has visited the hospitals in the occupied territories will have seen the extent of the horror, the echoes of which,

in all its vileness, were heard during the trial of the Givati soldiers accused of beating to death Hani El Shami, a peaceful resident of Gaza.

This is only the tip of the iceberg, nothing more. But we should forever engrave upon our memories how they beat him to dispel boredom, how they beat a man groaning and dying because it made them angry, how they beat a man for fun. And the doctor did not offer him help and no one reported it because, after all, Shami was only an Arab. It's not surprising that the doctor neglected his duty; others have

and the status of prisoners of war, the commission took an unprecedented step by drawing up a convention devoted solely to the protection of the human rights of civilian populations in occupied territories. This convention, known as the Fourth Geneva Convention, was accepted and ratified by almost all members of the United Nations, including the State of Israel, on April 10, 1951.

"The purpose of the convention is to ensure human dignity and the dignity of human existence - out of the range of violation."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, is another international convention of supreme importance. The declaration, which constitutes a kind of Magna Carta Libertum of the present epoch, is a universal standard of

human rights for all peoples and nations, and its provisions have been incorporated into the laws of many countries.

Over the years, the norms enshrined in the declaration - whether against arbitrary detention, deportation, or racial, national and other forms of discrimination - have been adopted by customary international law; these norms have become the birthright of the family of nations.

International laws systematically violated

Needless to say, military occupation comes under international law, specifically the 1907 Hague Conventions and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 regarding the protection of civilians in times of war.

The purpose of these conventions is to ensure that the population living in an occupied territory enjoys its basic human rights as well as to restrict the occupying power solely to the administration of these territories and all that arises within them, until such time as a peace agreement is achieved. Over the years, the provisions of the Hague and Geneva Conventions have become norms of customary international law obliging every nation on the face of the earth - as re-established during the Nuremberg trials 40 years ago.

The Geneva Diplomatic Convention met in 1949 - in the shadow of World War Two - in order to prevent the re-occurrence of such a war. In addition to the three Geneva Conventions, which deal with the victims of war on land and sea

Repression and suppression before the Intifada

Throughout the years of the Israeli occupation which preceded the uprising, the norms of international law were consistently and systematically violated.

The policy of expulsions, collective punishment and destruction of private property became the trademark of the occupation during those years. Torture during interrogation has become the norm, while my allegations and those of the League for Human Rights came up against a brick wall of denials created by the authorities.

The Faraa detention centre, established in 1982 on the initiative of Raphael Eitan, then army chief of staff, appears now to have been an archetype of the concentration camps which currently dot the territories. Ansar 2, set up in Gaza several years ago, was a predecessor of Ansar 3. We protested at the time against the conditions under which prisoners were being held, but our call fell on deaf ears. Now, however, thousands of Israelis are raising 'their' voices against the crimes.

Such was the situation of human rights violations in the occupied territories prior to the Intifada. To this brief sketch one must also add the full-scale repression of Palestinian culture by the banning of books, the suppression of free expression and creativity, of institutes of higher learning, trade unions, newspapers, women's organisations, etc.

Throughout this period, political and moral protests and warnings were sounded against the injustices in Israel. People of conscience and goodwill, parties and organisations and the League for Human Rights, among others, appealed to public opinion both in their own country and abroad. However, their numbers and influence could not prevent the further deterioration of the situation.

The Israeli authorities hypocritically celebrated the annual anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights - Human Rights Day - while they blatantly violated its provisions. The authorities did not understand that the nations of the world are familiar with the preamble to the declaration, which states: "...it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse to a last resort to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law."

The successive Israeli governments have forced the Palestinians to revolt against the tyranny and oppression they are forced to live under, and therefore the Israeli government has no right to claim that its suppression of the revolt is legitimate.

Moreover, while the Palestinians are extending their hands in peace - peace based on the mutual recognition of our respective rights, whose violation provoked the outbreak of the Intifada - the claims made by the Israeli authorities have come to seem all the more ludicrous.

The language of the Israeli authorities toward the Palestinians, among them hundreds of children, is the language of bullets, clubs and bulldozers; of smashing bones; of armed siege for its recovery, as at Beit Sahour, cutting off electricity; of uprooting trees; of thousands of administrative detention orders and concentration camps; of deporting fathers and expelling women and children; and of military courts which mean travesty of justice.

The 22 years of occupation, and in particular the last two years of the Intifada, have proven beyond doubt that the Palestinians do not understand this language.

Moreover, in the last decade of the 20th century, the language of tyranny and oppression is obsolete and even anachronistic; and as such it is our duty to eliminate it, in the name of world humanity.

Felicia Langer is an Israeli lawyer who has for many years tirelessly defended the rights of Palestinians. She is president of the League for Human and Civil Rights in Israel.

22 MARCH 1990

UN session deepens the Middle East muddle

The abortive UN Security Council session on the Soviet Jews and the fall of the Israeli government have narrowed the options in the Middle East, but for how long?

By Masood Haider
Special to The Star

Political opportunism

OUR ARAB-American friends were quite joyous and euphoric during the past few months. They had many reasons to experience this sense of joy and optimism: They were talking about an official day marking the contribution of Arab-Americans in their country's march towards advancement and progress; they were also counting quite confidently the number of key positions held by Arab-Americans in both the executive and legislative branches of government; they were even counting the number of influential Arab-American figures in the fields of media and sports. Many things, in short, were going their way and they felt they had a right to take a breath, be joyous and look back at the years of hardship and struggle experienced by their forefathers.

This sense of confidence and joy was transmitted, in turn, to us Arabs living in the homeland, and many of us wrote articles, or even poems, celebrating the achievements of our brethren the expatriate Arabs who finally managed to gain their long-forgotten recognition, and who were able to stand up to vicious campaigns of slander and intimidation that were intended to contain the role of Arab-Americans in the United States.

But during last week, we, who took an enthusiastic part in celebrating the achievements of Arab-Americans, had reason to at least think again about our uncontrolled praise for the Arab-American experience. When US President George Bush made his daring remark about opposing the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in Arab Jerusalem because the fate of this city should be decided through negotiations, it was an Arab-American, Mr. George Michel, who rose to the defence of the Zionist scheme of permanently turning the city into an Israeli city. Mr. Michel has his aspirations of keeping his post as majority leader in the Senate. But I never thought that political opportunism would make anyone change his skin so shamelessly.

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22 MARCH 1990

session of Arab foreign ministers still had to materialise. In the ministers' absence and for lack of a concerted response the Arab position was far from clear.

The draft working paper before the Arab envoys took note of the fact that Israel's decision to encourage large-scale emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied areas was a flagrant attempt to change the physical character, demographic and institutional structure and status of the territories.

That action alone, said the paper, made all the more urgent the need to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations. It also suggested that the Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar monitor the situation in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and report to the Council.

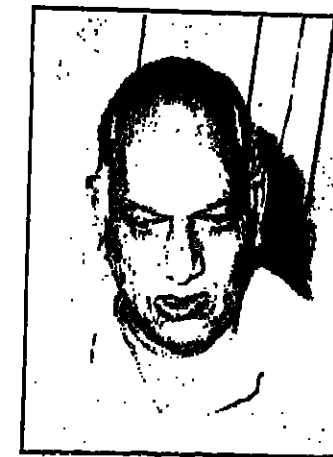
But a further obstacle in the works of the Council's proceedings on the emigration issue was introduced by the collapse of the Likud-Labour coalition in Israel, which all but dashed hopes of an early dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

There is little likelihood that the Council can pick up the pieces of its emigration agenda soon. The fall of the Israeli government means that there is now lack of unity at best, and chaos at worst, on both sides.

The fall of Zaki Badr:

A victory for Egypt's opposition press

By Michael Collins Dunn



Zaki Badr

THE DISMISSAL of Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr in January was a case of an opposition newspaper bringing down a key security official in a Middle East country. As such it was a sign of just how far Egypt's experiment in opposition politics has come, and of the power which Egypt's sometimes outrageous opposition papers can wield.

The most hated man in President Hosni Mubarak's government because of his hard line against Islamic "fundamentalist" movements, Badr came to power in 1986 immediately after the Interior Ministry's own security police had rioted. For nearly four years he pursued a tough line on drug trafficking, black market currency speculation and extremism, and his critics charged, a personal animus against Islamic movements.

At one point last year an opposition deputy physically attacked the always outspoken Badr on the floor of Parliament, something unknown in Egyptian parliamentary history.

Last December, when a small truck carrying blasting powder exploded not far from his motorcade, Badr proclaimed it an assassination attempt, though the truck driver suffered only minor

injuries. Sceptics believed it was an accident, but Badr claimed that the Jihad organisation was behind the plot and began rounding up fundamentalists.

In the wake of the December bombing, some observers reported Badr was close to a nervous breakdown. He began to criticise not only government opponents, but even government officials and pro-government editors.

Among his targets was the man who was to succeed him, Police Major General Muhammad Abdel Halim Musa, governor of the troubled town of Asyut. Musa, who has sought a dialogue with Islamic groups, was criticised as too weak by Badr.

The opposition newspaper, Al

Thomas A. Dine, executive director of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, attributed the fall of the Israeli government and the resulting blow to Israeli-Palestinian (PLO) talks to four factors.

First, he said, was the comment of President George Bush in which he opposed the Jewish settlements in 'East Jerusalem'. Second, he said, the US administration two weeks ago for the first time had told Congress that the Palestine Liberation Organisation was fully living up to its pledge to peace and renunciation of violence which, he said, was inconsistent with the situation obtaining in the territories.

The third factor in Dine's opinion was the US reluctance to criticise the PLO which contrasts sharply with recent "flood of statements publicly expressing differences with Israel." And the fourth and most extenuating factor was the exodus of the Soviet Jewry and international objections to their settlement in the occupied territories.

Independent analysis meanwhile remain confident that the collapse of the Israeli government is a short-lived setback and that it may in fact enhance the chances of expediting the peace process.

Because a majority in the Israeli parliament refused to join Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in rejecting Secretary of State James Baker's framework for



Bush: Currently under attack

Shamir's own plan and because that majority included religious parties that will be crucial in forming the next government, the US administration feels that a new coalition would be able to move ahead on the peace plan.

UN delegates, meanwhile, are convinced that while the United States seems sincere in wanting to secure peace in the occupied territories it also has to acquiesce to the idea of an international peace conference. Now that the Soviet Union has been dragged deeper into the conflict, however indirectly or unintentionally, with the influx of its Jewish emigrants, the analysts are of the opinion that this may be the time to include Moscow in any dialogue on the Middle East.

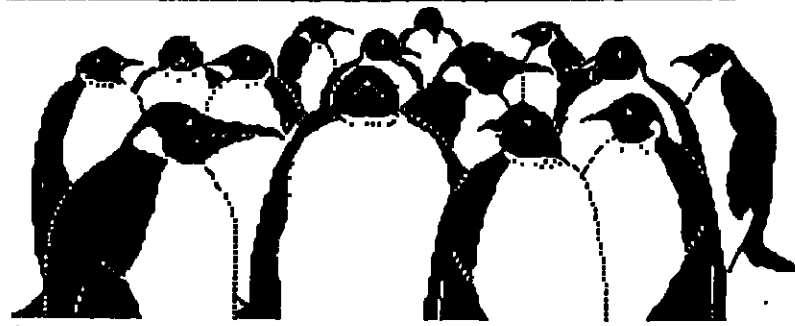
the pro-government Al Ahrar that no newspaper in Ceausescu's Rumania could have printed such a warning without being seized. Al Shaab's success against Badr is as much a sign of how much freedom the government has allowed the press as it is evidence of the abuse of power by a security man.

Egypt is one of the few Middle Eastern countries in which the courts can overrule the internal security apparatus and order defendants released. While some troubles did follow the firing - including a riot in Asyut demanding that Badr be put on trial, in which at least one person was killed by police fire - Zaki Badr's fall was generally seen as a great step forward. Since Amnesty International and other international human rights groups have been increasingly critical of Zaki Badr's prisons, his firing also removed the one blot on the otherwise generally good international reputation of the Mubarak government.

Michel C. Dunn, Ph.D. is senior analyst of The International Estimate, Inc., a Washington-based consultancy, and Middle East editor of its bi-weekly newsletter, 'The Estimate'.

The Washington Report

THE STAR 15



Around Town



'Promise' holds bazaar

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal patronised the first annual bazaar of Promise charity organisation, which she heads as honorary president, on Monday at the Inter-Continental Hotel. Promise seeks to help and extend aid to needy Jordanian families. Until now, and since the organisation was formed last November, Promise has helped 140 families in Southern Jordan. The organisation also hopes to train and rehabilitate needy people so that they can get job opportunities. Mrs Shadya Bibi is the vice president of Promise. The bazaar was attended by wives of diplomats and officials in addition to members of the general public.

Works by Spanish artists on show in Amman

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

CURRENTLY ON display at the Royal Cultural Centre and running until 30 March is a comprehensive art exhibition of 67 engraving. The show has come about through the efforts of the Institute for Co-operation with the Arab World in Madrid.

The 35 Spanish contemporary artists participating in the exhibit are of international standard. They present the Jordanian public with figurative, abstract, and super-realistic works. Modern techniques of printing are utilised in executing various scenes. They include engraving on carton and polyester, but there are also classical black and white works.

The Spanish Ambassador in Amman, Mr Ramon Armegod, told The Star that the aim of such an exhibit is not only to familiarise the Jordanian public with modern engraving techniques in Spain, but also to reward visitors of the Spanish Cultural Centre. "I think this is one of the best collections that I have ever seen," says Mr Armegod. He says he has special preference towards artist Rafael Canogar who is quite popular in Spain as a champion of humanitarian causes such as the Spanish liberation movements.

The Jordan Bridge Association (JBA) will participate in the Fifth Epsom worldwide bridge contest.

Two heats are going to be held in Jordan on 8 June this year, exact location and time to be announced two weeks before the event.

Scrapbook

Democracy and the professional questioners

THE OTHER day, I called a friend of mine to have coffee with him. He apologised, saying that he had planned to attend a lecture on "democracy" by a deputy of the Lower House. "Enjoy and tell me about it," I said, then I hung up.

Before that my friend suggested that I go with him. "It should be fun," he said. But I declined. It wasn't because I preferred a chat over a cup of coffee to a lecture on democracy. It was something much simpler. Why should I listen to that particular deputy lecturing on democracy now, I said to myself, when I didn't vote for him in the first place!

But I insisted that my friend give me his impressions about what he saw. He did mention a number of reasons for attending that event. The most important one was that he, unlike myself, wanted to see how the speaker would handle his topic, and how he would answer questions from the audience. In other words, it was more of a make-up exam for the deputy, where my friend would play the role of a volunteer corrector. Further more, my friend would have the chance to lay his conscience at ease, if the deputy was not good enough in his presentation since he didn't vote for him either!

I asked my friend later on, "How was it?" My friend smiled and said, "The hall was packed with people and I could spot three types of questioners..." "Sounds interesting," I interrupted.

First, there were those people who asked the difficult and embarrassing questions," he went on, "they represented opposing political views to those of the speaker. Both the deputy and the questioners seemed to address the audience rather than the issue at hand. Then there were the sympathisers and followers of the deputy, who tried through their questions to cover up for the deputy's mishaps. Thirdly, there were what I would call the 'professional questioners,' who instead of putting questions, delivered counter speeches, without blinking at the slightest possibility that by doing so they were by-passing all rules of courtesy and communication. The speaker and the audience were equally confused."

"You noticed all that during the meeting," I asked. "I told you the reasons that take me to such gatherings," he explained, "I could find one or two excuses every time I choose to do that. That's how I became familiar with some faces. By the way, the professional questioners prefer to sit in the first or second row, where they can hear and be heard clearly..."

"Isn't that an important aspect of democracy?" I asked again. My friend nodded.

"What else did you learn from that experience?" I asked cynically. "Two other things" my friend replied, "I think that the speaker believed, as I do, that democracy should go on. That's why he was talking as if the next parliamentary elections were to start the following week. I also became more convinced that the professional questioners will always be there in full gear. I am still wondering to which category of listeners my friend might belong..."

Salim Ayoub

cludes three events: open pairs, mixed pairs and teams. A thirty-player delegation is representing JBA including a number of international players, we wish them all good luck.

The general committee of the Interlines Club elected members of its new administrative committee of Sunday. They are: Mr. Ramzi Shweihat, president, Mr. Yousef Yousef, vice-president, Ms. Nabila Katamesh, secretary, Mr. Rafik Zakaria, treasurer and Ms. Sawan Hamarneh, Ms. Fadia Saad, Ms. Jawaher, Mr. Subal Basha and Mr. Faris Faris, members.



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SPANISH SPRING COURSE

The Spanish Cultural Centre will hold a spring course for teaching Spanish.

The course duration is three months, it will start March 21 to June 14, 1990.

Registration for the course starts March 12. Courses for all levels and each includes 3 classes a week.

For more information please call the Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, 2nd Circle

Tel. 624048

Future shock in Hawaii: Tourism lands at Lanai

By Bill Wood



LANAI, HAWAII - It's windier than usual this morning. A downdraft snatches at the Twin Otter as it starts its letdown over the shoreline. Holes in the clouds hint at what's below the light plane's grouping wheels.

Through the scattering clouds, cliffs rear above a crashing surf. Somewhere around here, at a place called Kahiki's Leap, ancient warriors dived off those cliffs to prove their bravery. Over land now, there a glimpse of sunbaked earth: Clumps of mesquite, called kiawe hereabouts, and boulders and deep ravines that stare up like open wounds form the blood-red soil.

But the nearby surf, it could be a scene from a desolate stretch of the American West; but for the bone-dry hills, it could be a typical tropical island. But this is neither. This is Lanai, the last frontier of tourism in the Hawaiian Islands.

In April, the first of two multimillion-dollar luxury resorts will open here, with the second scheduled to open its door in September. Until now, the only hotel has been a 10-room bungalow in the middle of the island's only town, a settlement of tin-roofed, wood-frame houses ambitiously called Lanai City.

The sixth largest island in the Hawaiian chain, Lanai has been a well-kept secret. Hunters and backpackers have explored the island's interior and beaches; fishermen and scuba divers know the secrets of its waters.

Most people, if they think of Lanai at all, think of one gigantic field of pineapple. For nearly seven decades, harvesting the prickly fruit has been the mainstay of Lanai's economy.

But with the advent of tourism, the looks and character of Lanai will change. That worries some of the islanders, both native Hawaiians and the majority, who are of Filipino ancestry. While hundreds of jobs will be created, stanching what has been a steady exodus of the island's youth, a simple, uninhibited lifestyle will be lost as the 90,400-acre island is transformed into a giant playground for the resort's well-heeled guests.

For the adventurous, surprises abound along Lanai's primitive coastline and island trails, marked by strange-looking rock piles. In a physical sense, this is the most Hawaiian of the Hawaiian islands; due to lack of development, undisturbed signs are plentiful of the ancient culture that thrived throughout these islands only two centuries ago.

Rock carvings known as petroglyphs provide a stick-figure glimpse of Hawaiian life before the British explorer Capt. James Cook discovered the islands in 1778 and began a process of Westernisation that soon changed things forever.

One of the several petroglyph sites on Lanai is at Kaunolu, the site of an ancient fishing village. King Kamehameha I, the early 19th century Hawaiian monarch who united all the islands, had a summer home here, its remains and those of other dwellings, a bathhouse and a heiau (temple) - as well as the rocky promontory called Kahiki's Leap, stand untouched today except by time.

From the windswept of Lanaihale - at 3,370 feet the highest point on the island - you can see all the largest islands in the Hawaiian archipelago except Kauai, nearly 200 miles to the northwest. Near the summit and along the trail stand rock breastworks built by Lanai's 18th century Hawaiian inhabitants to defend themselves against marauders from Maui and the "Big Island" of Hawaii, looming on the southern horizon.

The road along the island's rugged spine to the summit is the Munro Trail, named for George Munro, who managed the cattle ranch on Lanai before it was converted to pineapple in the 1920s. Luckily for Lanai, Munro was also something of a conservationist; it was he who started importing the stately Norfolk Island pines that cover the mountainside in and above Lanai City.

The pines' purpose was utilitarian: to combat erosion and capture moisture coming in over the mountain on the westerly trade winds, depositing it on the island's watershed. Sheltered by its neighbours Maui and Molokai, the island gets little rainfall. It is one of the driest of the Hawaiian Islands, almost totally lacking in the lush tropical growth found on the islands. Without the pine trees and their contribution to the watershed, Lanai might not have supported the sprawling pineapple plantation.

Some evenings families head across the pineapple fields for the island's south shore. For generations, a sunset luau on Hulopoe Beach has been a part of the gentle, thoroughly predictable lifestyle of the people of Lanai.

But the pineapple is gradually being cut back, a victim of foreign competition. And the Manele Bay Hotel is rising on the hill just above Hulopoe Beach. When it's completed in September, Lanaians will share the beach with guests and abide by a crop of new rules.

Modern fashions out of Amman

By Nadine Sughayyar
Special to The Star

READY MADE haute-couture lines and fashions in general seem to have always belonged to a somewhat distant world from ours.

But good news follows; quality dresses for women and juniors are being made here in Jordan in several establishments. Modern Fashion House (MFH) is teeming with activity. It sees itself as a pioneer of high fashion in Jordan.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor a fashion show featuring an 80-piece collection by MFH will be held on 29 March at the Amman Marriott Hotel. It will feature adult and junior models. The designs are mainly European in style following this year's look of freshness associated with bright fluorescent colours, marine style dresses accompanied by accessories of shells and frills. These creations are not restricted to dresses alone, but include trousers, jupe-culottes and shorts. The fashion show will also feature an experimental set of knitted cotton blouses and jackets. A more sophisticated look will also be there, for those who can "afford it."

As for the junior collection, it seems that young children will be quite "verdant" this summer in their cactus and vegetable printed clothes supplemented with fruit ornaments.

This does not imply that the Arab touch has been excluded. In fact, for that purpose, the "Hatta," the Arab headress pattern of red and black, was printed on cotton to be used for the garments.

Mrs. Samia Talhouni who owns and manages MFH started her business by importing maternity and junior wear for her shop "Al Um." But then "it became increasingly difficult to import, because of the changing economic situation," says Mrs. Talhouni. She began producing the same items in Jordan, which proved to be a difficult and costly task at first, but it was worth the effort.

Along with her sister Muna, Samia and her associates Andrey Schmitt and Fiyal



His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein opened the Apple Computer "Expo 90" on Monday at the Marriott Hotel. The exposition is organised by Ideal Systems Co. as an annual event. The two-day event seeks to highlight Apple Macintosh's latest technological advances. Mr Rudain Kawi, chairman of Ideal Systems, accompanied Prince Faisal on a tour of the exhibition. A number of software firms are participating in the event featuring programmes for office management, publishing, graphics and marketing. Seminars and presentations were held, the last of which will take place today Thursday.

Khouri, production was expanded to include dresses which range from those made for the young and free to the mature and simply elegant styles suitable for different tastes and sizes under the new brand name of "Al Badia." Mrs Talhouni stresses that her house produces limited numbers of the same design.

MFH now exports many of its items to various Arab countries, like Dubai and Saudi Arabia. There are plans to export to Europe next year.

Unfortunately, there are many drawbacks, one of which is the lack of good quality materials. Mrs Talhouni regrets that "accessories including threads and buttons are imported," hence the high prices. Furthermore, she is always in need of skilled drapists and seamstresses-- not easily found in Jordan.

Former US President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn left Amman Sunday for Israel after a three-day visit to Jordan. During his stay in Amman Mr Carter conferred with Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and a number of Jordanian officials.

Their talks focused on the Middle East peace process. Mr Carter, in a press conference he held at the Inter-Continental hotel Sunday morning, reaffirmed Jordan's role in the peace process.

The American University of Beirut Alumni Club of Jordan sponsored a lecture by Dr Adeed Dawisha entitled "Events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and their effects on the Middle East", at the Club on Monday.

Well-known Lebanese pianist Walid Howrani gave a piano recital on Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) presenting works by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Gelaljan and Liszt. The show was sponsored by Young Christian Women Association (YWCA).

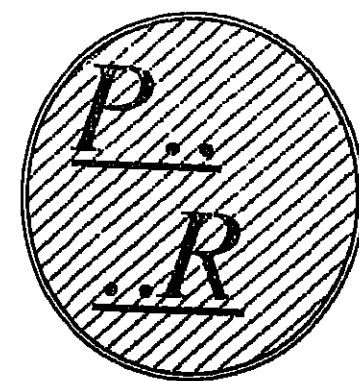
Mr Howrani, who visited Jordan in February of last year, was born in New York in 1948,



Mr Howrani

Khachaturian, who made it possible for Walid to study at Moscow's Central Music School from which he graduated with high distinction.

Today, Thursday, Mr Howrani will give a student's concert at 10:00 am at the RCC.



Hamburg - A DM 4 million reconstruction programme at the Hotel Inter-Continental Hamburg is being unveiled to the public this month.

The hotel lobby and reception, area, the Hansa-Kogge and Hulk Brasserie have been rebuilt and redesigned with light coloured wood and marble, more light and more open space.

The Hulk Brasserie is now the Orangerie, an informal restaurant styled after a Victorian winter garden. Palm trees and more light have been incorporated into the design. The Hansa-Kogge bar reopens this month as the Fontenay 10.

The team responsible for the reconstruction project also renovate the grand ballroom at the Hotel Inter-Continental Hamburg two years ago. The group includes Keith Robinson, a designer from London; Klaus Sporer and Werner Sahni from Sahn Interdesign in Stuttgart; and Hans Rittershaus, the chief engineer at the Hamburg hotel.

In addition to the reconstruction project, the hotel is having 40 new marble baths installed (DM 17,000 per room).

THE STAR 21

